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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ST. MARK'S
United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER 2021

Now to him who by the power at work within us is a



*Now to him who by the power at work
within us is able to accomplish abundantly
far more than all we can ask or imagine, to
him be the glory in the church and in Christ
Jesus to all generations forever and ever.
Amen.*

Celebration Sunday

November 21, 2021

stmarkscarmel.org/pledge

Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask

or imagine, to him be the glory in the church and in



Thank you for Mission In Action 2021!

Thank you, members of St. Mark's, for putting mission into action last month! The love extended to our brothers and sisters in Christ, serving both physical and spiritual nourishment, is beyond measure. We had 177+ volunteers, either in person or at home, serve on mission projects, over the two days. BIG THANKS to the following MIA weekend leaders:

- **Potato Drop:** Wayne Uhl
- **Forklift and equipment:** Jeff Salsbery
- **Christmas Gift Bag Pack:** Leslie Babione
- **Fall Fun Packs:** Linda Mitchell-Powell
- **Student School Kits:** Janet Brown
- **Church Outdoor Clean Up:** Jeff Salsbery
- **Fletcher Place Clean Up:** Robert Jennings
- **Changing Footprints:** Trisha Stanearth
- **Hamilton Co Kids Coats:** Donna Schwartz
- **Set up, Sunday Reception & Help:** Janice Presley, Donna Schwartz, Dan Sanders, Matt Hook, Amy Adams, Ramie Cooney, Jackie Rowell

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:1-2



The Pastor's Place

Dr. Brian White, Lead Pastor

bwhite@stmarkscarmel.org

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

During the month of November, we will be centering our worship around the theme, "Fearless Generosity." Our scripture for emphasis will be Ephesians 3:20-21 - "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."



Recently, I led a Sunday evening study of the book "Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith" by Tom Berlin. In the book the author says:

Courage is not the rare attribute of a small set of great men and women who are more daring or braver than the rest of us. It is the gift God gives ordinary people when we seek a clear vision of what God would have us do throughout our lives, or at this moment and time in our lives. If you want to be courageous, take time to find clarity of purpose, or clarity about what is really going on in your life, society, and the world. Seek the will of the Holy Spirit and then begin to act. (Berlin, Tom. *Courage*, p. 31. Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.)

Sometimes we think of courage as something that is only exhibited by extraordinary people in unusual, or even dangerous, circumstances. When we give it some thought we realize that there are many instances in our normal lives that require courageous actions.

Being fearless, however, is not the same as being courageous. Courage is facing a circumstance in which fear is present and doing what needs to be done anyway. Fearlessness is approaching a circumstance with the assurance that all will be well.

This month, we are being called to be fearless because we know that God is with us, and as Paul writes to the church in Ephesus, we know that God is more powerful than anything that lies ahead of us. To live generous lives means that we believe God will provide for us and we can share freely knowing that through us God will provide for others.

One of the most frequent phrases in the Gospels is, "Fear not!" We are not to be afraid but to face the future with the calm assurance that God is with us and can accomplish more than we could ever imagine. Because God is generous with us, we are generous to others.

Fear not! God is with us.

In Christ's service,

Brian

The Pastor's Place

Julia Gonzales, Associate Pastor
jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org

Hello St. Mark's,

A few weeks ago, I had an interesting conversation with Pastor Mary Ann. We were taking a moment to exchange stories from when we were younger and after recounting a some of the events that I had grown up with, including school drills that had nothing to do with natural disasters, Mary Ann got a look in her eye and observed that the world must not seem like a very safe place to me. I thought about it, reached out to some friends my age, discussed it with them, and concluded that...yes. The world does not seem like a very safe place to me. I have grown up in an age where although there is a great deal of peace compared to earlier times in history, there is still instantaneous communication that makes us aware of terrifying things that happen all over our country and around the world. That kind of knowledge is useful, but it can also be overwhelming.



However, Mary Ann followed up her observation with an important question. "Where do you find joy in the world then, if everything feels unsafe?"

And that...that's the rub. There is so much in this world that reminds me of how unsafe it is, but there is even more that gives me joy. Simple things like stars shining in a clear night sky, new and old music, the sight of children playing, but also much more complicated things such as people going out of their way to care for others. People going out of their way to try and make the world safer for others. The truth of Jesus's words in John 16:33, "I've said these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world you have distress. But be encouraged! I have conquered the world."

What gives you joy during times of distress? Where do you find God's hope shining when the world feels unsafe?

Take care,

Julia

The Pastor's Place

Mary Ann Moman, Associate Pastor

mmoman@stmarkscarmel.org

I remember the first time I thought it might be possible to go to seminary and be ordained. It was over 50 years ago that I made that decision. Since then I have had the opportunity to serve seven churches, with the United Methodist Foundation of Indiana and at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. What a journey it has been.

It's now time to spend more time with family, have travel adventures and read all of the books on my shelves. I'm looking forward to quiet times on my back porch and long conversations with my children and grandchildren. There will be time to perfect my sour dough English muffin recipe.

I'm grateful for the many ways I have seen the goodness of God at work in the world as well as in people's lives. I'm grateful for the gracious way I have been received in churches and communities. I have been astonished by power of love to transform strangers into friends. I have been blessed to walk alongside parishioners at the most joyous and most difficult times. It has been an honor.

On January 1 I will start a new part of this amazing journey. Thank you for the years of living among you. Thank you for welcoming me to St. Mark's. I'm grateful for your friendship.

May God continue to challenge you to ever more faithful disciples of Jesus.

Grace and Peace,

MAM



Monthly Mission Focus

Stephanie Cohen, Missions Coordinator
scohen@stmarkscarmel.org

Local Food Pantries



Third Phase, Inc.

Can you help us provide HUNGER RELIEF?! This month St. Mark's is supporting food pantry ministries that are helping feed hungry people, right here in Hamilton County. Families and individuals who qualify are able to pick up food pantry items each month.

How can I help?

- Donate non-perishable food items in the donation bin inside door #2, on Monday-Friday, between 9:00 AM—4:00PM. The food pantries have shortages on the following items.

Beef Stew	Canned Chicken	Canned Peaches	Boxed Cereal
Snack Crackers	Canned Beans	Canned Chili	Canned Chowder Soups
Rice A Roni	Tomato Paste	Canned Vegetables	
Macaroni & Cheese		Holiday Baking Supplies	
- Donate financially by using the mission offering envelopes on Sunday morning or online at stmarkscarmel.org/give. 100% of your donation will go to local food pantries.

Please help stock the shelves-together we CAN make a difference in the lives of others.

Donation & Service Opportunities

Brightwood Community Center

HELP NEEDED AT MONTHLY FOOD PANTRY

Brightwood Community Center is providing food



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

- Tuesdays
12:30 PM – 2:30 PM to sort and box food.
- Wednesdays
1:00 PM—3:00 PM. to pack perishable items and moving boxes outside to distribute.
3:00 - 5:00 PM to load recipient's cars in food distribution.

Please contact Diane Newton to sign up, 317-288-4523 or joediane244@att.net.

Donate Old Phones

Have an old smart phone you no longer need? Donate your old or used smart phone to provide for youth at Outreach



Indiana, in Indianapolis. Accompanying chargers appreciated but not required. Please be sure to erase your personal info first. Smart phones may be left inside the office at St. Mark's, during office hours.

Fletcher Place Breakfast

Thursday, December 23

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

St. Mark's provides breakfast for Fletcher Place Community Center, on the 4th Thursday of each month. All food and supplies are provided by St. Mark's. Volunteers will meet at St. Mark's, load up supplies, then drive to Fletcher Place. Cooking is done in Fletcher Place's kitchen, packed in carry-out containers, and then distributed by staff at Fletcher Place. Thank you for helping keep hungry Indianapolis fed! Sign up today at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

St. Mark's Blood Drive

Sunday, 11/14 | 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. Visit versiti.org to learn more about the continued importance of blood donation, and the steps Versiti is taking to keep our donors safe. Contact Mindy Davis at Melinda.kay.moore.davis@gmail.com for more information. Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

Mission Trip to Guatemala

June 4-12, 2022

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



to join St. Mark's members in this amazing service opportunity, **June 4-12, 2022.**

Experience God in a new way with a different culture, as we work together with our Guatemalan brothers and sisters in Christ, to build communities and relationships. Mission work will be in Panajachel, Guatemala and surrounding areas of mountainous San Andrés Semetabaj. Covid vaccination required for all attendees.

- Trip Cost : \$1,292
- Scholarships available for first time St. Mark's UMC attendees.
- Spaces available: 15 total.
- Covid-19 Vaccination required.

Signups will remain open until all 15 spots are filled. More info and signups visit:

stmarkscarmel.org/mg/#mgmissiontrip

Contact Stephanie Cohen with questions or interest, scohen@stmarkscarmel.org.

United Methodist Student Day

Sunday, 11/28

The United Methodist Student Day offering raises funds to help more than 300 scholars through scholarships and loans, for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities. Your contribution helps rejoice with and for students who are being raised in a loving faith community and to give in support of their dreams and career goals. When you give generously on United Methodist Student Day, you support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. Donations may be given in the mission envelopes behind the sanctuary or online at stmarkscarmel.org/give.

Because You Give, St. Mark's Gives!

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

- **Changing Footprints:** 405 pairs of shoes, many rolls of packaging tape
- **E. 10th UM Children Center:** 75 Fall Fun Packs, 2 bags of craft/school supplies
- **Fletcher Place Community Center:** 16 containers of oatmeal, 18 bags of food, carryout hot breakfast for 75, multiple packages of yard waste bags
- **Hamilton County Kids Coats:** 79 coats
- **MIA Day Supplies:** 19 notebooks, 18 bags of various supplies
- **Midwest Mission Distribution Center:** 60 Student School Kits
- **Roberts Park UMC:** 200 personalized Christmas Gift Bags, 29 hat/scarf sets
- **Society of St. Andrew:** 40,000 pounds of potatoes, \$5827
- **Travel Size Toiletries for Homeless Shelters:** 4 bags

Adopt a Family for Christmas

Would you or your small group like to sponsor a family in need this holiday season? For the third year in a row, St. Mark's is partnering with James Russel Lowell, in the IPS School District, to "Adopt a Family": provide children's toy/clothing gifts, and non-perishable food for the family in need. If interested, please contact Stephanie Cohen at scohen@stmarkscarmel.org or 317-846-4912. Gifts need to be delivered to St. Mark's by Thursday, December 9.



Angel Tree

Our Angel Tree will be back this year! Look for the Christmas tree in our narthex, early December, which will be decorated with Angels. Each Angel hung on the tree will bear the names of the children at the East 10th United Methodist Children & Youth Center. St. Mark's provides Christmas gifts for each specific child, to open at their center's Christmas Party. You will select an angel and purchase a toy in the \$25 range, suitable for that designated child. More info to follow with how you can help!



Fletcher Place Christmas Program

During November we are collecting *new* items that will be given to the Fletcher Place Community Center for their Christmas Program. This has been a shopping service for parents living in poverty who have been qualified as needing assistance with Christmas food and gifts. Fletcher Place will be assembling specific wish lists for respective families, in hopes to provide a nice Christmas for each family.



Please visit stmarkscarmel.org/signups for the link to select specific food, clothing and gifts needed. Donations should be NEW and UNWRAPPED and may be dropped off at our donation bins inside door #2, between Monday-Friday, 9-4, **by Monday, November 22, 2021**. For more info contact Stephanie Cohen, scohen@stmarkscarmel.org.

Sunday Morning Offerings

NURSERY & TODDLER CARE

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

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

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

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. Kidz Music & Praise will be singing in Worship at the 11:00 AM service. All participants should meet in their classroom to warm up before joining the congregation. Available in person and on Zoom. Contact Joyce Click, jclick@stmarkscarmel.org.

ADDITIONAL CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 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 and share what you are up to each week.

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPs) at St. Mark's

11/4 | 9:30 AM-11:15 AM

Marriage: On the Same Team; Mentor Mom Panel Discussion

11/18 | 9:30 AM-11:15 AM

Maximizing Motherhood with Carla Miller

MOPs and MOPsKidz have tons of fun on Thursday mornings at St. Mark's! Moms also enjoy evenings out and brunches solo plus playdates with children throughout the month. Invite friends, meet other wonderful moms, join our community and develop friendships, gain support and grow personally. Contact Amy Bender at mopsatst.marks@gmail.com to register for MOPs or Ramie Cooney at kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org to learn more about becoming a mentor mom.



Children’s Advent Musical

Kidz Music & Praise is busy rehearsing for the Children’s Advent Musical, *Hotel Noel*, which will be performed on December 12th at 2:00 PM.

Each Sunday join KMP at 11 AM on Zoom or at St. Mark’s for an age-flexible and engaging class where children to learn the joy of sharing the Christmas story through song and acting. If you have questions, please contact Joyce Click, jclick@stmarkscarmel.org.



Preschool Dine-Out Fundraiser

City BBQ | 11/8

Would you like a break from cooking during the week? Enjoy a take-out meal and benefit the St. Mark’s preschool on November 8th. More details available at stmarkscarmel.org/events.

INUMC Children Matter Most All In!

February 19 | Franklin, IN

Children Matter Most – All In! is an opportunity for all who care about children to come together to learn, be inspired, and go back to their community with action steps to help children thrive. The United Methodist Churches of Indiana Children Matter Most conference team has been focusing on nonviolence, food insecurity, and partnering with schools. You will learn more about each of these focus areas and many other ways you can nurture children in your context at this event. Our goal is for St. Mark’s to send a team. To learn more contact Ramie Cooney (insert link with email rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org) and visit [Children Matter Most Initiative](#) .

Save the Date

2022 Summer Camps

KIDZ MUSIC PUPPET & DRAMA CAMP

June 20-24

CLUB 56 MISSION CAMP 2022

6/27-6/30 | 9 AM- 12:00 PM

VBS 2022

7/11- 7/15 | 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Club 56 Upcoming Events

LATE NIGHT

11/13 | 1:00 PM—3:00 PM Woodland Bowl

Club 56ers meet at Woodland Bowl (3421 E 96th St, Indianapolis, IN 46240) to bowl a few games and enjoy the arcade together. Bring friends and prepare for fun! Parents can pre-pay on-line or at check-in.

CHRISTMAS PARTY/WHITE ELEPHANT

12/19 | 1:00—3:00 PM



@ St. Mark’s



Weekly Gatherings

SUNDAY MORNING

Club 56 (grades 5 – 6) | 9:40 AM

Students in 5th and 6th grade will meet in the lower-level den. Classes will dig-in to God's Word, learn how to apply the Bible to everyday life, play games and offer shepherding opportunities for the younger classes. As always, inviting friends is encouraged! stmarkscarmel.org/club56/

Cornerstone AM- Middle School | 10:00 AM

Middle School students will meet in Room M where we will discuss the weekly gospel passage from the Common Lectionary, as well as fellowship and, of course, donuts.

Cornerstone AM- High School | 10:30 AM

High School students will meet in Room N where we will discuss the weekly gospel passage from the Common Lectionary, as well as fellowship and, of course, donuts.

SUNDAY EVENING

Cornerstone Fellowship (grades 7-12) | 5:00 PM

We gather weekly in Cornerstone Commons for a time of games, fellowship, worship, a quick message, and small groups. We hope to be able to serve dinner each week as well.

THURSDAY EVENINGS

DKB@Starbucks | 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

DKB will be at the Starbucks at 131st Street and Hazel Dell Parkway from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Feel free to join him for conversation, coffee, or just to catch up. Parents are welcome as well.

Upcoming Events

THANKSGIVING MEAL

Sunday, 11/21 | 5:00 PM—7:00 PM

Come join us as we sit down together to break bread and give thanks for all that God has provided. 5:00 to 7:00 pm in Cornerstone Commons - No sign-up required. More details to come.

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE & CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, 12/19 | 5:00 PM—7:00 PM

Join us from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in Cornerstone Commons for some Christmas themed games, our annual White Elephant Gift Exchange, and other surprises. All students in grades 7 through 12 are invited, and friends are welcome to join!

WORK CAMP

Sunday, 6/19– Saturday, 6/25 | Port Huron, MI

Port Huron, MI

Limited spots available. \$500 per student. Grades 8th through 12th or 14 years or older are eligible. Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/workcamp.

WEEK OF HOPE

Sunday, 7/24– Friday, 7/29

Pittsburgh, PA

Limited spots. Grades 6 through 8 or 12 years of age. \$300 per student. Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/weekofhope

Adult Discipleship

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

Connection Tables are Back!

You can continue finding study books and *Upper Room* devotionals on the shelves in the church entrance (Door #2) during the week (Mon-Fri, 9:00am-4:00pm) and Sunday mornings.

In addition, check out the GROW Connection Tables in the Gathering Area (in front of the courtyard windows) for additional copies of study books, sign up sheets, and devotionals. Pay for study books in either location or online at stmarkscarmel.org/give. Select "Study Books."

Fertility Struggles Encouragement Group

Led by Pastor Julia Gonzales | Java House
Thursday, 11/18 | 6:00 PM

A new encouragement group is offering support to women who have had struggles with fertility and miscarriages. If you are interested in joining this group, please email Julia, jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org for future meeting times and any location changes.

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.



A Lifelong Journey of Discipleship

Where are you in your lifelong journey of faith? Whether you feel a bit stuck, are just beginning your trip, or want to find new ways to nurture your continued path of growth, let St. Mark's help guide you through our six areas of discipleship that are part of how we Welcome, Grow, and Serve.

Visit stmarkscarmel.org/discipleship to access a survey offered by INUMC that helps support your development as a maturing disciple in:

- Welcoming** God and all others (through a life of worship and hospitality);
- Growing** in knowledge and grace (through a life open to Jesus and obeying Jesus);
- Serving** our neighbors locally and globally (through a life of service and generosity).

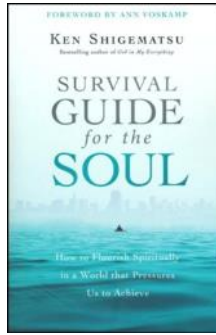
Questions? Contact Jennifer Cloud-Buckner, Adult Discipleship Coordinator, at grow@stmarkscarmel.org.

Survival Guide for the Soul

FRIDAYS THROUGH 11 /19, 9:30 AM-11:15 AM

Led by Stephanie Cohen | Hybrid online and Room B/C | Books \$12

It's not too late to join this group! Do you find that you're defining yourself by what you do, what you own, or what others think of you? This book by Ken Shigematsu helps us move to a fresh perspective on how certain spiritual practices re-orient our lives to God for our souls to flourish in demanding times.

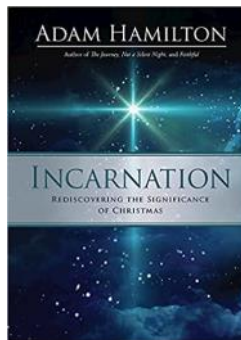


Adam Hamilton's *Incarnation* **WEDNESDAY MORNINGS**

11/17-12/15, no meeting 11/24. 9:30-11:00 AM

Led by Lydia Fourman | Hybrid online and Room J/K | Books \$12

In this 4-week study, examine the meanings of the names of Christ—Emmanuel, Jesus, Lord, Messiah, Savior, Light of the World, Word Made Flesh—and the difference He makes in our lives this Christmas. In the face of uncertainty, the Christ child brings us together this Advent season, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into darkness.



Advent Begins November 27

For the Advent season of waiting and preparation, pick up devotionals and peace coins from the church entrance (Door #2) or from the GROW Connection Table in the Gathering Area. Enjoy spending a couple of minutes each day of Advent with a short scripture reading and reflection to find hope in the promise of Christmas.



Sunday Morning Groups

9:15 AM (after the early service)

- Venture Class (Room B/C)
- Sun AM Encouragement Group (11/7) for those dealing with care of aging parents. Call church office or email grow@stmarkscarmel.org for information.

9:40 AM

- Open Doors/Open Ideas (Room L)
- Cutting Edge (Room G/H + Online)
- Foundations & Friendships (Room J/K + Online). Reading Barbara Brown Taylor's *Holy Envy* for Sept-Nov.

11:00 AM

- Reel Spirituality (Room G/H + Online) watching films with Christian themes at home and then discussing together over Zoom and in person.

Sign up for studies and see full descriptions of Sunday Morning Groups at stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups . Questions? Email Jennifer Cloud-Buckner (grow@stmarkscarmel.org).

Open Groups



UMW

An exciting year has begun for our UMW. Many up-coming events are in full motion. We are welcoming new members and are always excited to have additional friends and neighbors joining us. Each month provides opportunities of fellowship, and personal growth through our inspirational programs.

Our **monthly Interest Groups** provide reading programs, informative, interactive-personal travel presentations and shared experiences, as well as creative projects to enrich our outreach of caring. You will find an area of enjoyment and involvement in one of our following Interest Groups: **Bookworms, Spiritual Growth, Color and Chat, Cultural Insights, Book Markers, and Caring & Sharing.** More information can be found on the St. Mark's website at stmarkscarmel.org/umw.

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, November 9 | 9:AM & 7 PM

Mark the second Tuesday of each month, and plan on being with us in Cornerstone Commons at 9:00 AM or 7:00 PM. We want you sharing in St. Mark's UMW with us. We look forward to seeing you in the activities and fellowship of UMW.

Opportunities

There are many opportunity to becoming involved and help our UMW fulfill their

purposes of support and outreach to missions and to our community.

Arts and Crafts Marketplace

Saturday, 11/6 | 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

This a excellent place to become involved and to enjoy working, shopping, and getting to know others. Delicious baked goods, a wide variety of quality crafts, lunch at the Cafe, and UMW hand made items will all be available. Use the St. Mark's web site (stmarkscarmel.org/umw) to sign up to be involved in all the activities needed to make this event a huge success.

Calling all bakers and candy makers! Please consider donating your favorite homemade baked goods or candies for the upcoming Arts and Crafts Marketplace bake sale table. Items can be left in the church Fellowship Hall on Friday, November 5th from 9 AM to noon and from 5 PM to 7 PM. Enter through door #2. Please label items and note if they contain nuts. Items should be individually wrapped or in small amounts (e.g. 6 pretzel rods, 6 cookies, etc.). Decoratively wrapped treats for the Christmas holidays are especially appreciated.

The Fall Pecan Sale will begin on November 7th. Our delicious variety of pecans make excellent gifts as well as remaining the stables for those special holiday recipe treats. These delightful, nutty treats sell quickly. So plan ahead and make your purchases early.

UMM Breakfast Meetings



Saturday, November 13 | 7:30 AM

The United Methodist Men invite all men to our in person October meeting. The United Methodist Men Breakfasts are 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. Some of the groups we donate to are: Family Promise, East 10th Methodist Youth Center, Fletcher Place, Habitat for Humanity, Wheeler Mission, Second Helpings and SAW.

For more information about UMM or to be added to the email list, contact John Clodfelder, email umm@stmarkscarmel.org or call a UMM Board Member. You can see what's going on at stmarkscarmel.org/umm. Join us!

Calling all St. Mark's Musicians!

Seeking new members for both the St. Mark's Chancel Choir and the St. Mark's Handbell Choir! If you have any interest in being a part of the music ministry at St. Mark's, now is the time to join! Perfect time to join



the choir as we are starting to prepare for the upcoming Christmas cantata!! Please contact Dr. Eric DeForest, edeforest@stmarkscarmel.org if you are interested or have any questions.

Marksmen

11/4 & 11/18 | 6:30 AM

Panera | Rangeline Road

A community of career-and family-focused men seeking to develop relationships while we unplug from the daily stress that life can bring. Meet every other Thursday at Panera on Rangeline Road. if you have any questions, email marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org.

Marksmen will also be leading the Construction for Holy Walk. Look for opportunities to signup and help at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

Open Group Schedule

Mondays

COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

Monday, 11/15 & 11/29 | 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

PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, 11/16 | 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

The Only Plane in the Sky /by Garrett Graf

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Friday, 1/14/22 | 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

VOLLEYBALL OPEN GYM | 6:30 PM

Join us every Wednesday for Open Gym Volleyball for ages 16 and above. Playing experience is recommended. Come ready to have fun! For more information contact Ed Rowell, jackieandedrowell@gmail.com.

Thursdays

JULIETS

Thursday, 11/18 | 11:30

Cooper's Hawk Restaurant | 3815 E 96th St

Juliets (Just Us Ladies Into Eating Out Together) Contact Barbara Johnson, (317) 863-2689, timberblj@gmail.com , or text 303-918-6308 by 11/15 so correct reservations can be made.

CRAFT & HOBBY GROUP

Thursday , 11/11 | 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Join us for a time of fun and fellowship as we each enjoy our craft or hobby. We will follow all guidelines established by the church at the time of our gatherings.

RSVP to Kathy Bartel, 317-294-4908 or krbartel@gmail.com.

Committee News

Trustees

As I write this on October 14th the sanctuary refresh is about done. The new digital sound system is installed with a work around. One key piece of equipment is still on back order. We are planning to be substantially complete and have services in the Sanctuary October 17, as you read this you will know if we made it. The new chairs for the first three rows are due to be delivered in mid-November.

Had some bad news about the youth wing. The roof is leaking. It has been repaired but will need to be replaced. We are getting quotes. Water damage will be repaired when the new roof is installed.

The failed lighting protection system on the highest church tower nearest the traffic circle has been replaced.

The furnace and air conditioner (west side of hallway near fellowship hall) is being replaced. It was 27 years old and is electrically burned out.

The updates to the youth hall have started. Juan has started the painting. The youth will be working on the artwork for the hall once it is painted.

The Memorial Book, where we recognize memorial contributions to St. Mark's, that has been in the office is being refreshed and will be on display in the library soon. Thanks to all the donors that it recognizes.

Thank you for all your contributions that support these and other projects we are doing keep our old church ready to serve our religious and mission programs.

Finance

It seems like only yesterday I was talking about our progress through the summer – but we are now talking Thanksgiving, Holy Walk, Christmas and pretty soon, 2022!

September's donations were nearly \$12,000 short, but we met our financial obligations. Donations will need to continue their previous annual trends which means October, November, and December, continue strong as we have seen in prior years. September took a hit as compared to prior years but we are still slightly ahead of expectations

Expenses YTD are 3.1% favorable as compared to budget through September, we are not seeing the savings against budget we saw earlier in the year when the church was still more “fully closed.” The staff continues to be great stewards. We have not had any surprises that negatively impact our finances.

The budgeting process for 2022 has started. Our current level of donations does not support our current level of spending. One-time unusual events – and good stewardship have enabled us to manage the finances

No one will forget 2020 or 2021. St. Mark's, and your finance committee, have been the best stewards we can with your generous donations. I continue to say “thank you” every month when we review our financial position. It does not happen without you, and with your support, I would expect for St Mark's to finish the year at breakeven.

Bill Nicolai
Finance Chair

Stewardship

Dear St. Mark's Family,

In his book, *Being Me*, the late Grady Nutt wrote, "I honestly believe that there beats in the breast of every person a desire to exert a dramatic influence on the course of life." God has instilled in us a characteristic, an instinct, a drive that, when coupled with the desire to exert dramatic influence on life, can produce tremendous results. That characteristic, that instinct, that urge originates in God. It is a part of God's very nature. That characteristic is the generous image of God. It is a part of God. It is a part of us.

Our four-week stewardship emphasis for our congregation called "Fearless Generosity" is now underway. During the month of November, we will learn how to become more faithful and generous stewards as we explore what it means to practice: fearless living, fearless service, fearless sowing, and fearless giving. Each week we will focus on one of these concepts during worship in creative and inviting ways. We hope you will be present each week. And then, on **November 21 we will join one another in presenting our estimates or commitments of giving** in support of the ministry and mission to which we are called as the St. Mark's United Methodist Church congregation. On this day we will also celebrate and dedicate the renovations that have been made to our church building during the past two years to the entry and gathering area, kitchen and Wesley Hall, and the sanctuary. As we celebrate what God has done let us anticipate with faith what God will do in and through our congregation!

Through God's Spirit God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine. In your personal prayers and as you gather in fellowship with others, please remember to invite God's guidance through this special emphasis. May Paul's prayer for the church at Ephesus be our prayer as we begin this exciting time of exploring how God is calling us to be fearless givers and fearless stewards – as individuals and as a community of faith. "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21, NRSV)

In Christ's service,

Mike Warren, Stewardship Chairperson

Brian White, Lead Pastor



Community News

Directory Updates

Bruce & Kat Howe
670 Overcup Street
Westfield, IN 46074

Sympathies

To the Alison Burnett at the death of her brother, Christopher.

To Jean Gray at the death of her husband, Ron Gray.

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.

Myrneth Anderson	Doris Carlow
Mary Ann Davis	Jean Anderson
Annette Dunlap	Dorothy Ensign
Phyllis Gidley	Rosa Groot
Judy Hebenstreit	Georgia Herzog
Betty Lachman	Dorothy Mecca
Hilda Meyers	Ola Morrow
Melvin & Marlene Myers	Don Ranck
Mary Ann Pielemeier	Jane Roberts
Jerry & Brenda Weikel	
Jerry & Phyllis Delp	

Postgraduate Religious Studies Scholarships

In cooperation with the Staff Parish Relations Committee, St. Mark's is offering financial assistance to members of the congregation who wish to pursue religious/theological studies at the graduate level. The church is now accepting donations to the fund, and anyone wishing to make a financial contribution should contact Stephanie Solesky, ssolesky@stmarkscarmel.org and anyone wishing to apply for scholarship assistance should contact Pastor Brian.

Upcoming Events

Grief at the Holidays

Thursday, 11/18 | 6:30 PM-8:00 PM

On Thursday, November 18 Mary Ann will lead a conversation about grief at the holiday season.

We will explore the ways to celebrate while still grieving, how to adjust traditions, and taking care of ourselves. The conversation is scheduled for 6:30 - 8:00 PM in room BC. For more information contact Mary Ann Moman, mmoman@stmarkscarmel.org.

Advent Study

Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study by Walter Bruggemann

Sunday, 11/28-12/19 | 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Names for the Messiah ponders each title and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title.

Christians have claimed from the beginning that Jesus was the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament. In this study, best-selling author Walter Bruggemann tackles the questions: "What were these expectations?" and "Did Jesus fulfill them?"



St. Mark's PRESENTS

St. Mark's Presents

INDY WINDS FLUTE CHOIR HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Sunday, 12/19 | 3 PM

Join us for this free Holiday Concert!

Arts and Crafts Marketplace

Saturday, November 6 | 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Twenty Five Vendors

featuring unique, handmade items
perfect for holiday gifting and decorating!



Painted Rocks



Jeweled Frames &
Trees



Quilted Purses



Ornaments



Knit & Crochet Items



Wooden Toys



Handmade Jewelry



Decorative Scarves

Enjoy home-baked items and a light lunch at our Candy Cane Café.



ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Holy Walk Returns!

Friday, December 3 & Saturday December 4

Holy Walk through Bethlehem is a re-enactment of Our Lord's Nativity. St. Mark's held their first Holy Walk in December 1999. The Walk was developed by drawing upon similar events held at Homer UMC in Michigan and Simpsonwood UMC in Georgia. Holy Walk requires over **200 volunteers** each night. How will you volunteer this year? Please prayerfully consider how you can help! Visit stmarkscarmel.org/holy-walk.



A few of the opportunities available are:

- Volunteer to be a Character. No lines to many line parts are available. Opportunities available 12/3 & 12/4
- Volunteer to donate cookies, cups, gift cards for feeding our cast and treating our guests to cookies and hot chocolate. Opportunities available now through 12/3.
- Volunteer to help "Build" Bethlehem. The build will start on 11/20 with opportunities available until 12/5.
- Volunteer to greet our Guests in the Sanctuary or Wesley Hall. Opportunities available 12/3 & 12/4
- Volunteer to entertain our guests while they wait to begin their journeys Opportunities available 12/3 & 12/4.
- Volunteer to get our props and costumes ready. Opportunities available 11/20- 12/5 Signups are active now at stmarkscarmel.org/signups For more information, contact holywalk@stmarkscarmel.org .



Social Justice Book Discussion

Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance

Sunday, 11/14 | 7:00 PM

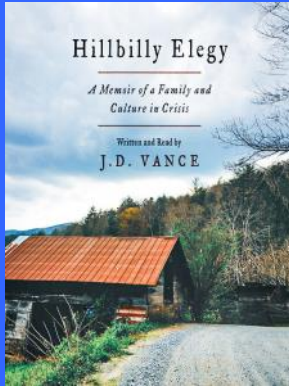
In-person & Zoom

Join the Social Justice committee for a discussion of the best-selling memoir *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance.

Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The disintegration of this group, a process that has been slowly occurring now for more than forty years, has been reported with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

Not a reader? *Hillbilly Elegy* has been made into a **movie** and is available on **Netflix**.

Please register for Zoom
stmarkscarmel.org/elegy or contact Amy Adams at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.



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