

# JUBILEE



ST. MARK'S  
United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2021

# A LIFELONG JOURNEY

a 6-week Worship Series



## Coming

September 12 — October 24

# The Pastor's Place

Dr. Brian White, Lead Pastor

[bwhite@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:bwhite@stmarkscarmel.org)

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

I love baseball. It has been one of my favorite sports as long as I can remember. I grew up listening to Cincinnati Reds baseball on a small transistor radio on warm summer nights. I often had to press the radio to the screen in the window of my bedroom to add a little extra antennae power so the broadcast would be clear enough to listen to. I remember when my kids began playing baseball and the joy of coaching and watching their games. I spent many years playing church league softball until a shoulder injury ended my church softball playing days. I still love watching baseball and cheering for the Reds.



When my grandson was born, I remember holding him for the first time. I remember whispering my love for him in his ear. And I remember whispering into his tiny ear the words, "I'm going to teach you to play baseball someday!" This past weekend my now five-year-old grandson had his first organized baseball practice. We went to the school baseball field near my house and began working on baseball fundamentals. It was an important moment in this grandfather's dream for my grandson and our life together.

I hope that my passion for baseball is something that I can pass on to another generation. It is a hope borne of my love for the game and of my love for my grandchildren.

Faith is a lot like that as well. It is hard for us to pass on our faith to a new generation if we do not have a passion for the things of God. If we want our children and grandchildren to come to faith we must attend to our own practice and enthusiasm. It is our love of God and the people of God that motivates us to share the message of Christ with future generations.

It is a time of year when we begin planning for the next year. We are beginning to recruit committee members and leadership for 2022. We are evaluating the financial life of the church and strategizing about the needs of the church and how we might invite people to help meet those needs. We look carefully at all the programs and resources of the church and ask the important question, "How can the resources God has provided for our church best be used?"

These are important questions, but they pale in comparison to the big question: "How are our lives changed by the church and how can we share our joy in the life-changing experience of Christ in our lives?" The more mechanical questions are important, and a church will fail without considering them, however, the more important question, which Jesus asked the disciples by the Sea of Galilee after he was resurrected, is, "Do you love me?" A half-hearted answer to that question will not propel us into the future God desires for us.

I love baseball and I hope to pass that love along to another generation. My love for baseball pales in comparison, however, to the love of Jesus in my heart. I hope that I can be just as passionate about passing along that love as I am about passing along my interest in baseball.

This month I will begin teaching a class on spiritual practices. If you are looking to grow in your faith this is a good opportunity to dig deeper and experience God's presence in new ways. It is my hope that as we deepen our love for Christ we will also deepen our commitment to sharing that love in new ways to a new generation.

# The Pastor's Place

Julia Gonzales, Associate Pastor  
[jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org)

Dear St. Mark's,

This summer among the new exhibits at Newfields, an art museum in Indianapolis that also houses the IMA, there was one that particularly caught my attention. The LUME, an immersive experience that set the digitalized art of Vincent Van Gogh to music in a display that covered ceiling to wall. It was breathtaking and at the same time heartbreaking to see how one man's art could display all of the hope that he felt towards the beginning of his career as an artist to the despair that he experienced towards the end of his life. It brings some fresh perspective to Proverbs 13:12, "Hope delayed makes the heart sick; longing fulfilled is a tree of life."



As fall draws closer, I'm reminded that nothing ever remains fully the same. Flowers will bloom and leaves will fall, hopes will be answered and new challenges will arise. The only thing that remains constant is God, and even that can be hard when our perception of God shifts as we learn more about who God is and how we relate to God in this life. Everything changes, and sometimes the effects of those changes can be draining on our hope that the future will be better. The struggle to keep hope alive isn't a new one, and we have good company on the journey. From the time of David and even before, there are days when keeping hope alive is hard. Yet still the words of Psalm 42:11 remain. "Why, I ask myself, are you so depressed? Why are you so upset inside? Hope in God! Because I will again give him thanks, my saving presence and my God." Our saving presence and God remains. Though there may be trials and uncertainty, our hopes will be answered and all will be well.

Until next time,  
Julia

# The Pastor's Place

Mary Ann Moman, Associate Pastor

[mmoman@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:mmoman@stmarkscarmel.org)

## Signs Along the Way

Over the last several weeks I have had to adjust my drive to St. Mark's multiple times due to construction. I know that construction often makes things better and in the meantime we must live with the "mess". But I still find myself impatient negotiating the changes in traffic patterns. I suppose this has been the story of our lives over the last months. We make changes. Things get better. The situation changes and we are asked to make more changes. There doesn't seem to be a path that we can count on.

Over the last few weeks I have been seated in the front row of the sanctuary. Facing the front of the sanctuary from the front row has been a chance to "see" from a different perspective. One of the things I have noticed is the grape juice marks on the floor. I have begun to think of these marks as signs of our "communion" as a community. They aren't stains or something to clean up. They are signs of our life together as a community of faith. These are signs we can count on.

As I meditate on the grape juice on the carpet I am reminded of the people of St. Mark's. I long for the time when we can stand together at the front of the sanctuary and I can hand you bread and offer juice. There will always be crumbs and juice marks left on the carpet. They are reminders that God is always with us in the messiness of life. When the way doesn't seem clear or easy God is with us. When the way is blocked God is with us. When we want to turn around and go back home God is with us.

Those marks on the carpet are the sign that we are not meant to make this journey alone. We have each other. There are signs everywhere these days. Some divide us and some bring us closer together. I'm grateful for the reminder that in this community we travel together. While walking Camino several years ago I was always grateful to the signs with the shell. It was good to know I was on the right path even if the path was rocky or strenuous.

These are rocky and strenuous times. Watch for the signs that that give you hope.

Mary Ann



# Monthly Mission Focus

Stephanie Cohen, Missions Coordinator  
[scohen@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:scohen@stmarkscarmel.org)



## Society of St. Andrew

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

### Did you know?

- September is National Hunger Action Month. Over 70 million people in the US are hungry or are food insecure.
- In the US we will throw away 133 billion pounds of food in 2020.
- Formed in 1979 The Society of St Andrew (SoSA) shares healthy, nourishing food with hungry people in the USA by sending volunteers to glean (pick, dig, or gather) fresh fruits and vegetables from fields and orchards.
- Since 1979 SoSA has partnered with faith groups, secular groups, schools and individuals that we might serve together by feeding the hungry. SoSA prevents food waste, feeding the hungry through projects including Potato & Produce Project, Harvest of Hope and the Gleaning Network.
- So far in 2021 SoSA has:
  - ◇ Gleaned, gathered, and distributed 35,823,261 pounds of fresh produce in 3,500 events with 9,756 volunteers.
  - ◇ Food donated by 590 farmers has been distributed to hungry people through 1,317 feeding agencies.
  - ◇ Pounds of food already wasted in the US this year--80,247,264,994 and counting. This waste happens in fields, transportation, supermarkets, restaurants, and homes.

### How can I help?

- Support SoSA by making a financial donation by giving in the white mission envelope behind the sanctuary.
- Make a financial donation online at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://stmarkscarmel.org/give).
- Download the Daily calendar for Prayer and Action at [endhunger.org/docs\\_church/ham/HAM-Calendar](http://endhunger.org/docs_church/ham/HAM-Calendar).
- Find gleaning opportunities here in Indiana at [endhunger.org/serve](http://endhunger.org/serve).
- Sign up to help with St. Mark's annual Potato Drop on Saturday, October 9 at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups).
- During September buy a "Fruit" or "vegetable" at the Connection Table.
- Drop non-perishable food items in the donation binds, inside Door #2, Monday-Friday 9AM-4 PM.

# Donation & Service Opportunities

## St. Mark's Blood Drive

**Sunday, September 12 | 8:00 AM—1:00PM**

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](http://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](mailto:Melinda.kay.moore.davis@gmail.com) for more info. Sign up online at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups).



GIVE A PINT & A COAT! We are also collecting gently used or new coats for Hamilton County Kids Coats, to keep our community warm along with the gift of life.

## Family Promise IHN

### Home Sweet Home Event

**Sunday, October 7**

Home is needed more than ever! Join the annual fundraising event to help every child have a home. On Thursday, October 7 at The Willows on Westfield, or join via Livestream on Facebook and YouTube. For registration and more info visit [fpgi.org/home-sweet-home](http://fpgi.org/home-sweet-home)

## Changing Footprints Shoe Drive

Our annual shoe drive will culminate with the sorting and packing of shoes on MIA Day, October 10. Shoes will be



donated to Changing Footprints, a local nonprofit organization that accepts shoes of all kinds and distributes them to individuals, organizations and agencies wherever there is a need, whether in Indiana, the United States or overseas. Changing Footprints was founded in 2005 and operates two warehouses right here in the Indianapolis area. Please bring your donations of new or gently worn shoes to St. Mark's by October 10.

## Hamilton County Kids Coats

Hamilton County Kids Coats is a collaborative effort between many churches and community partners whose goal is to make sure all Hamilton County children stay warm this winter. We are collecting coats in good



condition that will be given away in November. All sizes welcome but greatest need is **Boys 8-12 and adult sizes!** If your family has outgrown coats or if you are ready to pass your coat on to someone else, please wash it and donate it to HCKC. Drop off clean coats at St. Mark's by October 10.

## 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 : **\$1,292.25**

\$100 deposit will be due **SEPTEMBER 1, 2021** (*available spots may then open to other congregations*)

Scholarships available for first time attendees

Spaces available: 15

More info and signups visit [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups)

## Because You Give, St. Mark's Gives!

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

- **Family Promise:** \$200 Gift Card Basket for Home Sweet Home Event
- **Fletcher Place Community Center:** 15 containers of oatmeal, 7 bags of food, 50 sack meals
- **Good Samaritan Network:** \$5,568, 32 toys, 1 bag clothing
- **Hamilton County Kids Coats:** 2 coats
- **Outreach Indiana:** hundreds of items from Greatest Needs list, including 170 items collected at VBS
- **Travel Size Toiletries for Homeless Shelters:** 2 bags
- **UMCOR Covid19 Relief:** \$1,325 year to date

## Soup's On "To Go" at Roberts Park

Sunday, October 24

Mark your calendar! St. Mark's will be providing and distributing meals "to go" for the community served at Roberts Park, on October 24. The Roberts Park United Methodist Church Soup's On ministry provides a wonderful opportunity for us to carry out Jesus' command to "feed the hungry." Each Sunday, volunteers at Roberts Park serve lunch to homeless persons and others in need, in downtown Indianapolis. Thank you for helping us offer lunch to those less fortunate! Watch for signups later in September.





## Interfaith Hospitality Network Returns!

St. Mark's has been a long-time partner of Interfaith Hospitality Network, the hallmark program of Family Promise. IHN is a coordinated response of the faith community that provides emergency food & shelter, offers individual skill development & rehabilitation, advocates for economic stability and strives to end homelessness for the guests they serve. Each congregation in the network takes turns furnishing overnight lodging and meals during their assigned week, a few times each year. Our role as volunteers is fundamental to this program – we can make a difference by offering dignified compassionate assistance to families who have lost their homes.



St. Mark's will host families for one week this year, while the Apartment Shelter Program continues to supplement the needed housing.

### How Can I Help?

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

Signups are available at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups). Contact Jeff Keyt [shellcreek5@gmail.com](mailto:shellcreek5@gmail.com) or 239-201-8207 or Stephanie Cohen [scohen@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:scohen@stmarkscarmel.org) or 317-846-4912 for more information.

## Fletcher Place Breakfast

### Thursday, September 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 has long been providing breakfast for Fletcher Place Community Center, on the 4th Thursday of each month. Volunteers are now asked to resume serving a much-missed hot meal! Please sign up if you can help, one or more months.

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 to-go containers and then distributed by staff at Fletcher Place (no interaction is required with clients served). Thank you for helping keep hungry Indianapolis fed! Contact Stephanie Cohen for more info: [scohen@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:scohen@stmarkscarmel.org) or 317-846-4912. Sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups).





## Sunday Morning Offerings

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

### NURSERY & TODDLER CARE

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

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

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

### 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](mailto:jclick@stmarkscarmel.org)) Available in person and on Zoom.

### ADDITIONAL CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

- Check out the Connect with Kidz website at [stmarkscarmel.org/kidzconnect/](http://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

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Come join the fun and impact a child's life!**

Please prayerfully consider how you can be involved in this local mission—sowing God's word into the hearts of our St. Mark's children. We need assistants to help during 9:40 & 11 services. Training and materials provided, and you will have partners to help. Contact Ramie or Jackie at [kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org). Even if you cannot volunteer in a classroom at this time, please pray for the volunteers God is nudging to serve!

## Thank you to our Children Ministries Volunteers!

A huge thank you to the special volunteer team that worked tirelessly throughout the COVID pandemic to prepare for VBS and the on-line program offerings in Children's Ministry each week. We appreciate Meridith Anderson, Michelle Byrd, Kristin Parisi, and Amy Walz for dedicating their time and talents! Additional thanks to all who supported Children's Ministries over the past year with prayers, gifts, and your service!



## Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) at St. Mark's

Thursday, 9/9 & 9/23

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



## Kidz Music & Praise Christmas Musical

Sunday, 12/12 | 2:00 PM

We have had a great summer with weekly classes including praise songs, Bible lessons, drama and instruments. Watch for information on when we will begin practicing for our Christmas Musical, "Hotel Noel"



## Attention 3rd Graders

Sunday, September 19 | 9:40

The United Methodist Women of our church will gift New Revised Standard Version Bibles to current 3rd graders on Sunday September 19 during the 9:40 and 11 services.

Parents, please register your child(ren) by emailing a recent picture to

[kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org). We would like to include all our children, even if your family is unable to attend in person. Please contact Ramie or Jackie in Children's Ministries for more information.



A great time was had this summer at Puppet & Drama Camp and Vacation Bible School.





## 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/](http://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

#### THIRD STREET REHEARSAL | 4 PM

#### 10:30 AM- 11:30 AM

Rehearsals for our student praise band will take place on Sunday afternoons just prior to Cornerstone Fellowship. Third Street leads worship music at Cornerstone Fellowship, Retreats, and Youth Sundays. All students are welcome. We are always looking for both instrumentalists and vocalists.

#### 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 131<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Keystone Student Leadership (Grades 11 & 12)

Our student leadership group is comprised of High School Juniors and Seniors. We will be meeting regularly once the group has determined the best time to do so. If you are interested in being part of this team, contact DKB.

## Upcoming Events

### YOUTH FALL RETREAT

#### 10/29-10/31 | Epworth Forest Retreat

Any students currently in grades 7 through 12 are invited to attend. Cost is \$95 per youth.

Sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/fall-retreat](http://stmarkscarmel.org/fall-retreat). For more information, contact Don Broad, [dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org).

### WORK CAMP

#### Sunday, 6/19- Saturday, 6/25 | 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](http://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](http://stmarkscarmel.org/weekofhope)

# Adult Discipleship

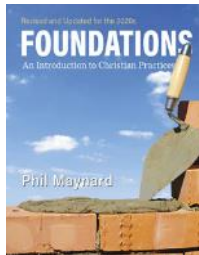
Dr. Jennifer Cloud-Buckner, Adult Discipleship Coordinator  
[grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org)

## ***Foundations***

**SUNDAYS, 9/12-10/24, 6:00-7:15PM**

Led by Pastor Brian White | Hybrid online +  
Room B/C | Books \$15

Growth as a disciple begins with a good foundation. We need to learn how to pray, how to begin reading the Bible, how to live in authentic relationships, how to have a devotional time, how to use the resources God has provided, how to discern our call to serve, and how to share our faith. Going along with the “A Lifelong Journey” sermon series on 9/12-10/24, *Foundations* is good for newbies and long-time churchgoers alike: those who are brand new to St. Mark’s, brand new to the Christian faith, and experienced Christians who are seeking renewal and inspiration as they build relationships in different stages of spiritual maturity.



## **Cultivating Fruit of the Spirit**

**WEDNESDAYS, 9/8-11/10, 9:30-11:00 AM**

Led by Lydia Fourman | Room J/K | Books \$11

How should Christians live? Legalistic views stress obeying rules to prove our goodness, while others view faith as freeing us from rules and institutionalized religious burden. In Galatians, Paul addressed these two extremes by showing a better way to live—with the Spirit of God given to us through Christ. Pastor and scholar Chris Wright invites us to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Join this study to feed God’s Word, grow in Christlikeness, and live a fruitful life.



## **Romans Study**

**WEDNESDAYS, 9/1-12/15**

Early AM Men’s Study, 6:30 AM-7:15 AM  
Pastor’s Bible Study, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM

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

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



**Sign-ups and info at**  
[stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups)

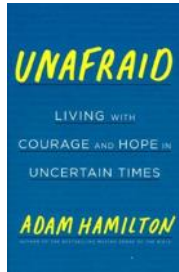
Questions? Email Jennifer Cloud-Buckner ([grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org))  
or call (317) 846-4912 x. 214.

## ***Unafraid: Living with Courage & Hope in Uncertain Times***

**THURSDAYS, 9/9-10/7, 9:30-11:00 AM**

Led by Judy Woempner | Online + Room B/C | Books \$16

Fear is a complex emotion. Sometimes it saves us, but more often it robs us of the life we want. Drawing on recent research, inspiring real-life examples, and fresh biblical insight, Adam Hamilton shows how to untangle the knots we feel about disappointing others, failure, financial insecurity, loneliness, insignificance, aging, and large perils like terrorism and death. For anyone struggling with fear or wondering how families and communities can thrive in troubled times, *Unafraid* offers informed, inspiring, and practical solutions.



## **Bob Goff's *Dream Big***

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

Led by Stephanie Cohen | Online + Room B/C | Study Guide \$9

Bob Goff, bestselling author of *Everybody, Always* and *Love Does* is on a mission to help people recapture the version of their lives they dreamed about before fear started calling the shots. He wants them to dream big. With practical revelations, this study will help you uncover the wild and exciting dream for your life that you've hidden from yourself--and help you take the steps necessary to achieve it. We will use the Study Guide (blue cover, \$9), but a handful of copies of the full book (yellow cover) available for \$17.



## **Walking as Spiritual Practice**

**Friday, 9/30 | 9:30 a.m.**

Extended for September! Meet Pastor Mary Ann Moman at River Road Park (12575 River Rd.) for a walk at your own pace and duration after a short devotional.

## **Reunion Groups**

Have you ever attended an intensive spiritual weekend like Emmaus, Tres Dias, Cursillo, Chrysalis, or Great Banquet and want to connect with a weekly reunion accountability group? Sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/walk](http://stmarkscarmel.org/walk). Zoom meetings for the women's group (Thursday PM) and men's group (Friday AM) are available.

## **Fertility Struggles**

### **Encouragement Group**

**Thursday, September 16 | 6:00 PM**

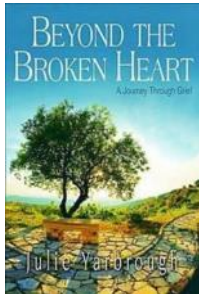
A new encouragement group will be meeting starting in September to offer support to women who have had struggles with fertility and miscarriages. This group will be led by Pastor Julia and meet at Java House Coffee located at Midtown Plaza at 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 16. If you are interested in joining this group but are unable to meet at that time, please email Pastor Julia at [jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org) for future meeting times.



## Grief Support Group

Thursday, 9/16- 11/4 | 6:30 PM

We experienced so many kinds of grief over the last months. The process of moving through grief can be a lonely journey. You don't have to do it alone.



A grief group will begin on Thursday, September 16 from 6:30-8:00 PM. We will again use "Beyond the Broken Heart" by Julie Yarborough. The group will meet through November 4. A session on grief at the holidays will be held on Thursday, November 18. The group will be held in person with a hybrid option. You can register for the group at [stmarkscarmel.org/grief](http://stmarkscarmel.org/grief). If you have questions please contact Mary Ann Moman ([mmoman@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:mmoman@stmarkscarmel.org)). Books will be available at entrance 2.

## Sunday Morning Groups

9:15 AM (after the early service)

- Venture Class (Room B/C)
- Sun AM Encouragement Group (monthly) - for those dealing with care of aging parents. Call church office for information.

9:40 AM

- Open Doors/Open Ideas (Room L) - **beginning a new study on 9/12, all welcome!**
- Cutting Edge (Room G/H + Online)
- Foundations & Friendships (Room J/K + Online)

11:00 AM

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

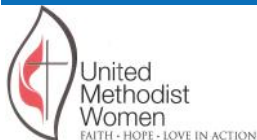
## A Lifelong Journey Discipleship Sermon Series

Our sermon series, "A Lifelong Journey," this fall will feature the six themes of discipleship at St. Mark's — all part of how we Welcome, Grow, and Serve. There is an accompanying Sunday PM study (9/12-10/24) called *Foundations*. For those new to the Christian faith and for experienced churchgoers alike, this series will help us look at how we **Welcome** God and all others (through a life of worship and hospitality), **Grow** in knowledge and grace (through a life open to Jesus and obeying Jesus), and **Serve** our neighbors locally and globally (through a life of service and generosity). Questions? Contact Jennifer Cloud-Buckner, Adult Discipleship Coordinator, at [grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org).

- 9/12—A Lifelong Journey: a Life of Worship
- 9/19—A Lifelong Journey: a Life of Hospitality
- 9/26—A Lifelong Journey: a Life Open to Jesus
- 10/3—A Lifelong Journey: a Life Obeying Jesus
- 10/10—Mission in Action Day (serving in the community instead of having in-person worship)
- 10/17—A Lifelong Journey: a Life of Service
- 10/24—A Lifelong Journey: a Life of Generosity

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

# Open Groups



## UMW September Kickoff

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

Plan on attending the UMW Fall Kick Off! We are meeting in **Cornerstone Commons**. The morning gathering will have a continental brunch and the

evening gathering will share a light salad supper. An excellent speaker from Ascent 121 will bring a brief overview of the impact and urgent support provided to our surrounding community. Our UMW has made donations and has projects to strengthen the outreach of Ascent 121. *We will follow the Church Task Force Protocol and wear masks in the church hallways.* Come and bring a friend or neighbor as we share the joy of actually meeting in person. .

### UMW Fall Interest Group

At the September Kick-Off there will be a brief preview of our group. Our interest groups will begin meeting in October. Please go [stmarkscarmel.org/umw](http://stmarkscarmel.org/umw) to find out all the details on interest groups.

### Morning Groups

#### SPRITUAL GROWTH

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

#### BOOKWORMS

A book discussion group that reads both fiction and non-fiction. Facilitator: Gail Lee

#### CULTURAL INSIGHTS

This group will review different locations from around the world. The leaders have lived in specific regions and will share some of their experiences. Facilitator: Christy Kihm, Ann Baker, Kathy Lentz, Ramie Cooney, Barbie Schmenner

#### MAKE IT OR TAKE IT

This group will not be meeting at this time.

#### COLOR & CHAT

Coloring isn't just for kids! Come enjoy fellowship while coloring with UMW friends. Facilitators: Deirdre Robinson & Cathy Brinkman

### Evening Groups

#### BOOKMARKERS

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

#### CULTURAL INSIGHTS

See Morning Group for description

#### CARING & SHARING

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

### UMW Reading Group

**Monday, September 27 | 7:00 PM**

Join the UMW "Your Window to the World National Reading Program" in our book discussion. For more information visit our website [stmarkscarmel.org/umw](http://stmarkscarmel.org/umw) or contact Kathy Lentz, [kathylentz@gmail.com](mailto:kathylentz@gmail.com).

The last book discussion for 2021 will be Monday, September 27th at 7:00 PM in the St. Mark's Library. The focus will be books from the Social Action category. Visit the reading program website [unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram) for a list of books.



## UMM Breakfast Meetings



### Saturday, September 11 | 7:30 AM

The United Methodist Men invite all men to our in person on September 14, 2021 . 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](mailto:umm@stmarkscarmel.org) or call a UMM Board Member. You can see what's going on at [stmarkscarmel.org/umm](http://stmarkscarmel.org/umm). Join us!

## Marksmen

9/9 & 9/23 | 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](mailto:marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org).

## St. Mark's Choir is Returning!

Calling All Singers! The St. Mark's Choir is returning! If you have any interest in singing with the choir, please join us for the kick-off. We are excited to be able to make a joyful noise with you all again! If there are any



questions, please contact Dr. Eric DeForest at [edeforest@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:edeforest@stmarkscarmel.org).

## COVID PROTOCOL

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

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

Please visit [stmarkscarmel.org/reopening-plan/](http://stmarkscarmel.org/reopening-plan/) for more information.

## Open Group Schedule

### Mondays

#### COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

Monday, September 13 | 9:00 AM

This self-help camera group meets for conversation about photographic art & technique. Bring your camera & your questions. Contact [ken\\_shultz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ken_shultz@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

#### CAREER CURVE

On Zoom, Mondays | 10:00 AM

A support and resource group for those who have suffered a job loss, are unemployed or under-employed and seeking a change. The mission of Career Curve is to provide individual job search strategies, and informal counsel associated with the challenges of a job search. For more information contact Jim & Chuck, coordinators at [careercurve@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:careercurve@stmarkscarmel.org).

### Tuesdays

#### PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB

September 21 | 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

*My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayer

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

#### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Friday, October 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, [bonnetjim@icloud.com](mailto:bonnetjim@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](mailto:djmehl2004@aol.com)

#### MOB (METHODISTS ON BIKES)

Wednesday, 9/8 & 9/22

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



### Thursdays

#### JULIETS

September 16 | 11:30

Sahms | 11505 Allisonville Road

Juliets (Just Us Ladies Into Eating Out Together) will be meeting in August. Contact Barbara Johnson, (317) 863-2689, [timberblj@gmail.com](mailto:timberblj@gmail.com), or text 303-918-6308 by **September 12** so correct reservations can be made.

#### CRAFT & HOBBY GROUP

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

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

### Saturdays

#### MOB (METHODISTS ON BIKES)

Saturday, 9/4 & 9/18

See Wednesdays above for MOB information.

# Committee News

## Trustees

The Sanctuary refresh will improve the overall function of the sanctuary as well as improving our handicap accessibility. These changes are being made based on input by staff and specialized volunteers. The refresh should take a few weeks and will begin after Labor Day. For more information, please see the blueprints at the church or view the explanation video on the St. Mark's webpage.

## Library

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



### **LIBRARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!**

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

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

If you would like more information, contact Jenny Rundle, [jrundle@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:jrundle@stmarkscarmel.org).

## Finance

Is not summer great? I could list many reasons, but I will leave the blessings you relish up to you to fill in the blanks... It is time to talk finances – as the church continues to open up – oops, maybe I should hold off a bit, the men got to enjoy breakfast last Saturday. The church looks great with all the projects being completed, everything taken care of, and the staff getting ready for what ever is coming next, including going back to school.

Expenses for July were essentially right on budget – just 1% over budget given additional janitorial cleaning services to keep us protected. Donations, however, took a bigger than expected drop, over \$5,344 or 6.5% as compared to the what we would expect during the “summer slump” period. For the year however, expenses are FAV to budget by \$24k and donations, given strong first quarter contributions, are still slightly FAV as compared to our expectations. The staff continues to monitor all expenses and the church has remained faithful.

I trust we will remain faithful to our pledges and commitments and can finish the year on a strong note – St. Mark's does not happen without you. Thank You. It is truly an honor serving as your Finance Chair. I send my blessings.

Bill Nicolai  
Finance Chair

# Community News

## Directory Updates

Phil & Kris Gidley  
17374 Bigleaf Maple Blvd, Apt 928  
Westfield, IN 46074

Liz & Don Rix  
15416 Spring Woods Drive  
Carmel, IN 46033

Mr & Mrs. Dave Wanker  
232 Ashmore Place  
Haslett, TX 76052-3810

## Births

Mary Lynn Gardner was born on August 9.  
Parents are John & Lindsey Gardner.  
Grandparents are Leslie and Dennis Gardner.

## Sympathies

To the family of Dick and Joyce Landis at both their deaths. Joyce passed away June 27 and Dick passed away July 20.

## Coffee Volunteers Needed

Sunday coffee will be returning soon! We need Volunteers for making coffee, and cleaning up on Sunday mornings. Please consider signing up for a Sunday a year or a Sunday every month.



For more information, contact Amy Adams, [aadams@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:aadams@stmarkscarmel.org) or sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups).

## Registering Attendance

We are grateful for your presence in online worship. Please register your attendance every week at [stmarkscarmel.org/attend](http://stmarkscarmel.org/attend). Please include the names of all in the family attending worship. Thank you for being a part of St. Mark's wherever you are!

## Circle of Care

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

Myrneth & Jean Anderson	Doris Carlow
Mary Ann Davis	Jerry & Phyllis Delp
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
Lora Jane Roberts	Don & Jane Shiels
Jerry & Brenda Weikel	Emily Stahl
Mary Ann Pielemeier	

# Events

## St. Mark's Presents

Watch for details of the 2021/2022 St. Mark's Presents Concerts.



### THE INDIANAPOLIS BRASS CHOIR

Sunday, 10/24 | 4 PM

### THE INDY WINDS FLUTE CHOIR

Sunday, 12/19 | 3 PM

### THE CAROL DENNIS TRIO (FLUTE, VIOLA, PIANO)

Sunday, 3/20 | 2 PM

### CELLO RECITAL WITH LORI HORNER, CELLO

Sunday, 5/15 | 2 PM

## Arts and Crafts Marketplace

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

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

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



## Holy Walk Returns!

**Friday, December 3 & Saturday December 4**

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

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





# MISSION IN ACTION DAY



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Potato Drop | Saturday, October 9 MIA DAY | Sunday, October 10

Mark your calendar and join us for our annual churchwide event, Mission In Action! Members of St. Mark's will mobilize the message of Christ's love. We will worship through serving, working as the hands and feet of Jesus. A variety of mission projects will be available Offsite in our community, here at St. Mark's, as well as at home projects.

Visit [www.stmarkscarmel.org/mia-day](http://www.stmarkscarmel.org/mia-day) for more details and link to sign up now!

### Ways to Serve

#### ONSITE PROJECTS

- Childcare for MIA Day
- Student kit assembly
- Christmas Gift Bags for Roberts Park
- Outdoor church cleanup
- Potato Drop (Saturday)

#### OFFSITE PROJECTS

- Hamilton County Kids Coats
- Changing Footprints
- E. 10th Fall Festival
- Outreach Indiana Youth Center
- Fletcher Place Community Center

#### AT HOME PROJECTS

- Prayer Warriors
- Sew Cloth Student Bags
- Assemble Sack Meals
- Sew Hat & Scarf Sets
- Care Cards for Shut-Ins



### Donation Items Needed for MIA Day Projects

Socks	Travel size Hand Sanitizer
Toilet Paper	Notebooks
Yard Waste Trash Bags	Toothbrushes (individually packaged)
Fingernail Clippers	Packaging Tape



# Connecting @ St. Mark's

## Wednesday Worship on the Lawn & Reconnect Picnics



## Confirmation Class 2021



## Habitat Build

**Thank you, Habitat builders!** Last month a team from St. Mark's partnered with Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity on a State Fair build. It was a fun and productive day helping the Martin Family build a safe and affordable home!



# Fall Celebration Thank You

As our ministries kicked off for the fall, we celebrated on August 22nd the many ways you can connect with the St. Mark's mission to WELCOME, GROW, and SERVE. Thank you to all who participated by filling out a Connection Inventory and helping at an information table.



If you were not able to attend and want to learn how you can live out this mission in a meaningful way, consider completing a Connection Inventory using the link—[stmarkscarmel.org/inventory](http://stmarkscarmel.org/inventory). If you have any questions please contact Missi Koenig at [mkoenig@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:mkoenig@stmarkscarmel.org)



4780 E. 126th St.  
Carmel, IN 46033  
317.846.4912  
[stmarkscarmel.org](http://stmarkscarmel.org)

**ST. MARK'S**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



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