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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ST. MARK'S
United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2020

St. Mark's UMC

In-Person & Online

stmarkscarmel.org/connected

*No matter what the world throws at us,
we have a place for you to be welcomed, grow, and serve.*

COVID-19 Reopening Plan Guidelines

ALL PHASES MUST FOLLOW CDC GUIDELINES: PHYSICAL DISTANCING, FACE MASKS, AND HAND SANITIZER AT ENTRY POINTS. Continue to shelter in place if you are high risk (65 and older, underlying health condition). Stay at home if you are sick, until at least 10 days past initial symptoms, AND 3 days fever-free (without medicine), AND no respiratory symptoms. Recommendations for cleaning and sanitizing will be followed in all phases. For updates check out the St. Mark's website, stmarkscarmel.org/reopening. **We are currently in Phase B.**

	Phase A Starting May 31	Phase B Started July 12	Phase C TBD	Phase D TBD
Church Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open with limited hours. (M-W, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM) Sanctuary open for prayer time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited hours continue (As of Aug 6, open Wed 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, other times by appt) Sanctuary open for individual prayer during office hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase office hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule & Protocol TBD
Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online worship service continues to be offered Worship team may gather and record in the sanctuary (Adults only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online worship service continues to be offered Live family worship services with restrictions. (9:00 Current & 11:00 Traditional Service are offered) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online worship service continue Live family worship continues with restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule & Protocol TBD
Adult Ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online presence continues for small groups, Parking lot gatherings allowed. Leader must schedule with office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online presence continues for small groups, Bible studies, Sunday classes. Limited live gatherings allowed (except Sunday morning) Meeting must be scheduled with office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online presence continues for small groups, Bible studies and Sunday classes Limited live gatherings must be scheduled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule & Protocol TBD
Student Ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online presence continues to be offered. Parking lot gatherings allowed, with Adult Supervision . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online presence continues to be offered. Limited live gatherings in the building allowed with Adult supervision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third Street Rehearsals may resume in the building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule & Protocol TBD
Children Ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online presence continues to be offered Playground is closed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online presence continues Parking lot family events offered. Playground is closed . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online presence continues. Limited Children's programming begins. Playground opens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule & Protocol TBD
Non-Church Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-site meetings postponed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-site meetings postponed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-site meetings postponed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule & Protocol TBD

Worship

Ways to Worship

In Person Worship

9:00 AM– The Current

11:00 AM– Traditional

Online

Facebook Live at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Website—Any time during the week.

Need Help Viewing Online?

You can watch the service live or later.

- Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/stmarkscarmel.org](https://www.facebook.com/stmarkscarmel.org) (You do not need a Facebook account to watch)
- Watch from the website. Go to www.stmarkscarmel.org/connected. Scroll down to Worship from home with us and click Play on either the 9:00 AM or 11:00 AM service.
- Pick up step-by-step instructions at St. Marks. (Available at Door #2 Monday-Friday, 9 AM– 4 PM)

Communion

Communion will be served the first Sunday of every month. Elements for home use will be available for pickup at the church the week before communion is served.



Registering Attendance

We are grateful for your presence in online worship. Please register your attendance every week by visiting stmarkscarmel.org/attend. Please include the names of all attending worship.

Thank you for being a part of St. Mark's wherever you are!

What to Expect on Sundays When We Worship



- Masks are required.
- Every other pew will be used.
- Due to seating constraints, please wait to be seated by the ushers, and please stay in that seat. The Sanctuary will be filled from front to back. This allows for maximum seating capacity, minimizes cross-traffic, and complies with CDC Guidelines.
- Only family members may sit next to each other. All other people need to be at least 6 ft apart.
- Music will be provided by music team; however, there is no congregational singing.
- When Sanctuary reaches capacity (70-75 people) no one else will be seated.
- Sanctuary will be cleaned in between services.
- After the postlude is complete, ushers will dismiss from the back to front of the church to reduce cross-traffic and allow for minimal contact.
- Bathrooms will be available for emergency use.
- Hand Sanitizer Stations are available.
- Please leave the church as soon as you are released from Sanctuary.
- No Sunday school classes, Kidz Church, or nursery care will be provided.

The Pastor's Place

Dr. Brian White, Lead Pastor

bwhite@stmarkscarmel.org

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

It is August. I'll confess that August is in many ways one of my least favorite months. In church life, activities often come to a standstill. Many church members are taking last-minute vacations. Families are preparing for returning to school and shopping for supplies. We catch our breath before the many study groups, committee meetings, and mission activities begin for the fall. In the midst of the pause I always have some nagging anxiety that people might not show up again as we begin our active church life in September. Moving into the school year is an act of faith with a little trepidation.



It is obvious to everyone that this year is different. We won't be moving into September in the same way that we do most years, but we are still courageously moving forward into a new reality for our world, our country, and our church. Many of our activities will continue to happen electronically - committee meetings, study groups, and worship. We are working hard planning ways to meet safely while including people who need to continue sheltering at home for the foreseeable future. We are learning new things every day and will continue to prayerfully use all the means we have to be the church despite the obstacles before us.

And yet, some things have not changed. Children are looking forward to new teachers and new schools. Young adults are heading off to college. People are getting married. We have welcomed new people to the church, sometimes connecting with them through Zoom groups and sometimes in person. We continue to support the missions projects that are important to our hearts and souls like donating blood, providing meals for Roberts Park UMC Soup's On, and collecting items for distribution in our community and around the world.

Romans 5:3-5 says, "We also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." In the midst of our current difficulties I believe God is shaping a new future for the church. In many ways the church is changed forever.

But some things have not and will not change. Our commitment to helping people connect to God through Jesus Christ has not changed. Our commitment to helping people connect to one another through fellowship and study has not changed. Our commitment to helping people connect to the world in service and mission projects has not changed. The means of our connection may be different now but our core values and commitments are the same as they have always been.

As we follow God, we will endure, we will be hopeful, and God's Spirit will give us the fortitude to forge a new future for ourselves and God's church. Thank you for your courage. Hang in there - our future together is not yet revealed but I believe that God will be in it and we will move forward together!

In Christ,
Brian

The Pastor's Place

Julia Gonzales, Associate Pastor

jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org

Hello St. Mark's Family,

Another summer, another Annual Conference. Although, much like the rest of 2020, the Indiana Annual Conference was a little different this year. This year's Annual Conference was divided into several days (not so different) that were spread out from August to October (very different). Having several remote locations as well as in-person and virtual marks another difference, one that was harder than the other. For myself, growing up and attending Annual Conference alongside my grandfather as lay representatives, Annual Conference was often a time for reconnecting with other United Methodists from across the state. It was always an opportunity to learn more about how the Spirit was at work beyond my own church. This year, to not have that in-person connection while wise for health reasons was still challenging. We do better when we are together, it *is* in our name after all.



The act of gathering believers together to do the work of the Church is a tradition that stretches back to the book of Acts. Choosing a new disciple, settling on the question of clean and unclean food, debating points of belief and practice, everything and more could be discussed when gatherings of Christian were held outside of worship. Let's face it, we all like to lean into the reminder that when two or more are gathered, Christ is there. Our faith continues to be stretched as we seek the Spirit's presence when we gather virtually. Yet, as the stretching and shifting continues I try to remember the promise of Romans 8:37-39, "But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created."

Together in Christ,

Julia

Praying in a time of Anxiety

I have had several conversations recently with people who are having a difficult time knowing how to pray. What are the prayers you are praying in these days? Jesus taught his disciples to pray with the words of the Lord's prayer. Maybe you learned prayers from your parents when you were a child. Over the years I have learned prayers from the liturgies of the church that have nourished my spirit and strengthened my faith. One of those is the prayer found in the *Order for Morning Praise and Prayer*.



New every morning is your love, great God of light,
and all day long you are working for good in the world.
Stir up in us desire to serve you,
to live peacefully with our neighbors,
and to devote each day to your Son,
our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

When I pray this prayer I am reminded that God's presence surrounds the world with love. God's hope for the world is that we live together in peace. It seems that peace is not easy to find. To work for peace is to work for justice for all of the people. Jesus reminded us that he came so that we might have life and have it in abundance. So when I pray this prayer I am grateful that God is at work in places and in ways that are beyond what I can see and know.

So, I ask again, "What prayers are giving you strength and increasing your faith? May your heart grow through this time of pandemic. May you find ways to work for justice in ways that will bring abundance of life to all of God's people.

Grace and peace,
Mary Ann

September Mission Focus

Stephanie Cohen, Mission Coordinator
scohen@stmarkscarmel.org



Society of St. Andrew
GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL HUNGER ACTION MONTH!

Did you know:

- 70 million people in the US today are hungry or food insecure (since COVID-19).
- We will throw away over 133 billion pounds of food in 2020.
- Society of St Andrews (SOSA) shares healthy, nourishing food with hungry people in the USA by sending volunteers to glean (pick, dig or gather) fresh fruit and vegetables from fields and orchards.
- SOSA focuses on preventing food waste through many projects (including Potato & Produce Project, Harvest of Hope and the Gleaning Network.
- In 2019 29,000 volunteers worked with SOSA to put more than 69 million servings of food on tables. (Working with faith groups, secular groups, schools and individuals)
- In 2020 through July
 - ◇ SOSA has gleaned, gathered and distributed 12,501,707 pounds of fresh product in 2,803 events with 9,866 volunteers.
 - ◇ Food donated by 528 farmers has been distributed to hungry people through 1,497 feeding agencies.
 - ◇ Pounds of food already wasted in the US this year: 80,230,619,0143 and counting. (This waste happens in fields, transportation, supermarkets, restaurants and homes.)

How can I help:

- Financial donations may be made online at stmarkscarmel.org/giving.
- Participate in the daily calendar for prayer and action in the month of September. Download calendar endhunger.org/docs_church/ham/Ham-clalendar.pdf or pickup a copy inside Door #2.
- Drop non-perishable food items in the St. Mark's donation bins, inside Door #2, Monday - Friday, 9 AM- 4 PM.
- Find gleaning opportunities here in Indiana at endhunger.org/serve.
- Sign up to help with St. Mark's annual Potato Drop on Saturday, October 10 at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

Donation & Service Opportunities

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/IHN:** \$200 Gift Card Gift Basket
- **Fletcher Place Community Center:** 50 sack meals, 16 Oatmeal containers
- **Good Samaritan Network:** \$4260, 12 toys/games, 8 large bags of clothing, 6 bags of toiletries, 8 diaper packages, 7 bags of household items, and \$100 in Kroger gift cards
- **Native American Ministries:** \$150
- **Outreach Indiana:** 2 bags of clothes for youth, 2 bags hygiene items
- **Personal Dignity kit supplies:** 9 bags
- **Student School kit supplies:** 6 bags
- **Third Phase Christian Center:** 5 bags of food
- **Servants At Work:** \$1500 and wheelchair ramp build

St. Mark's Blood Drive

Sunday September 13 | 8:30 AM-1:15 PM

Sign up now for the next Blood Drive! People Need People. Can you help save a life and roll up your sleeve?



Healthy individuals are needed to donate blood today! The donation process itself poses no risk of infecting a donor with coronavirus, and Versiti staff are following CDC recommendations on how to properly defend against COVID-19. Visit [versiti.org](https://www.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 info. Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

O'Connor House Baby on the Way 5K September 27

Celebrate 15 years of The O'Connor House providing a Christian home to help single, pregnant, homeless women improve life for themselves & their children.



Enjoy a fun afternoon while helping improve the lives of homeless, pregnant women and their toddlers and babies. Outdoor event at Guerin Catholic HS; race begins at 12:00pm. Virtual option available. Register at www.theoconnorhouse.org

Habitat for Humanity Build Day September 24 | 7:45 AM-2:30 PM

St. Mark's UMC and Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity are partnering to help the Cobbs Family build a safe, affordable home this fall. We need 7 volunteers, 16 and older, on the build site for exterior painting. No experience is needed as training, build material and safety equipment will be provided. Location is 16th/E Riverside Dr (exact address given upon registration). Review our COVID-19 build safety guidelines at indyhabitat.org/safety.



Contact Joe or Diane Newton for questions at joediane244@att.net or Shana Lewis at slewis@indyhabitat.org. Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/signups by September 10.

SAW (Servants at Work)

On August 24th, our St. Mark's men built a handicap ramp as part of the SAW Handicap Ramp building program. Great work St. Markers.



Family Promise IHN Home Sweet Home Event

October 1

Home is needed more than ever! When the COVID-19 pandemic began and congregational hosting had to be suspended, volunteers and supporters came together to rent apartments as shelters. It was not only more cost effective than hotels; it was successful with 89% of families



securing housing! Now they need our support to keep that momentum going. Join the annual fundraising event to help every child have a home. On **Thursday, October 1** at The Willows on Westfield, or new this year, join via **Livestream on Facebook and YouTube**. For registration and more info visit fpgi.org/news-events/home-sweet-home.

Sign up to donate household items by **September 8** (drop off at St. Mark's) for the Apartment Shelter Project at stmarkscarmel.org/signups

September Programming

We miss seeing you in person. Each week, families are invited to our current activities:

- Children are welcome to attend in-person worship services in the sanctuary with their families at this time (Make sure to get a Kidz Kit for each child.)
- Check out the **Connect with Kidz website** at stmarkscarmel.org/kidzconnect to find weekly Kidz Church and Kidz Music & Praise resources.
- Join our **St. Mark's Kidz Facebook** page to watch a weekly Bible Story and object lesson and share what you are up to each week.
- Children ages 4-4th grade are invited to attend "**Kidz Music & Praise Rocking 11 am**" each Sunday on Zoom. Contact Joyce Click (jclick@stmarkscarmel.org) for an invitation.
- Due to the great response to "Blast from the Past VBS" we are continuing to make it available thru September on stmarkscarmel.org/virtual-vbs/.

Third Grade Bible Recognition

Sunday, October 4 | 1:00 PM

Children's Ministry is excited to once again gift *New Revised Standard Version* Bibles to current 3rd graders. Parents, please RSVP and register your child(ren) by emailing rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org. This year we will celebrate this milestone with a Bible Game Day celebrating our third graders and allowing them to learn more about their Bibles, enjoy fellowship time together, and have a the chance to win Bible-themed prizes.

Club 56 Summer Wind-down Social

Friday, September 11 | 5:30 pm

Fifth through 7th graders are invited to gather for fellowship and fun in the St. Mark's parking lot (practicing social distancing and safety measures) or Wesley Hall if weather is questionable. We've missed you! Youth are encouraged to invite friends and neighbors. Contact Ramie Cooney, with any kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org.

MOPS

We are Mothers of Preschoolers (newborn to kindergarten) who desire friendship, community, support, and growth. Fall 2020 will look different during COVID-19 because we are not meeting in-person this semester. Our plan is to schedule socially distant monthly Moms Nights Out and monthly outdoor play dates (weather permitting). Additional activities and gatherings will be posted on the MOPS Facebook page as opportunities present themselves. We will reassess for Spring 2021. Email Alexis at mopsatst.marks@gmail.com to register; we cannot wait to meet you.

SAMS (School Age Moms)

SAMS welcomes mothers of children from kindergarten through secondary grades but also strives to be welcoming group for all ages. SAMS provides support, a Mom community, and a sounding board for moms from St. Mark's Preschool, the church and the community. The group will meet twice monthly via Zoom and twice monthly out at a brunch location. Weekly meetings allow for growth and also meet people where they are in terms of comfort in socializing during COVID-19. Contact Ali Lemberg, getintouchinc@yahoo.com for Zoom codes and more information.



Weekly Gatherings

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Cornerstone Fellowship, Grades 7-12 | 5:00 PM
Parking Lot & Zoom

Join us in the St. Mark's parking lot every Sunday. We will also have Zoom available for students unable to attend. Students who are starting 7th grade in the Fall are welcome to attend.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Wednesday Night Worship | 6:00 PM
Facebook Live

Bible Study-Gospel of Mark | 6:30 PM
Contact DKB for login.

THURSDAY EVENINGS

DKB @ Starbucks Join Don on Zoom until restaurants reopen. Parents and students are all welcome! Email DKB for login.

Upcoming Events

FAMILY EVENTS

These events will be face-to-face or virtual, depending upon what we are able to do. The events will include a Parent-Teen Day, Family Photo Scavenger Hunt, Family Mystery Mission Event and a Family "Escape Room" Event.



STUDENT EVENTS

A Lock-in (either face-to-face or virtual), Student Escape Room" and hopefully a Fall Retreat in November.



MYSTERY ADVENTURES

These will take place once a month. Don will plan the Event. The details will not be announced until a week before.



MONTHLY MISSION EXPERIENCE

These will be planned a month out and announced at that time.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for face-to-face Sunday School over Instagram Live.

Watch for a complete Fall Schedule to be released soon! Contact Don Broad, dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org or check out the website, stmarkscarmel.org/youth.

Adult Discipleship

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



Pick Up Study Books and *Upper Room* devotionals

All new studies have books available at the church for contact-free pickup, Mon-Fri, 9:00AM-4:00PM. Inside the Door #2 entryway, you can find Study Books and *Upper Rooms* on the library book return box. To pay for books, please mail a check to the church (memo – “study books”) or pay online at stmarkscarmel.org/giving.

You can also order books from Amazon or Cokesbury, and some groups are hand-delivering books to those who can't make it to the church. Contact Jennifer Cloud-Buckner or your study leader with questions.

Reserve Parking Lot & Church Grounds for Meetings

If your Grow Group or study group, or other church small group wants to have a socially distanced meeting in the St. Mark's parking lot or church grounds, see page 18 or stmarkscarmel.org/facilityrequest for info on requesting a spot.

New Justice Study Begins

HOLDING UP YOUR CORNER: TALKING ABOUT RACE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Sundays, 9/13-10/4, 6:00-7:00 PM

Led by Pastor Brian White | online | Books \$11

Learn how to live into your calling to address injustice and help others do the same. In *Holding Up Your Corner*, F. Willis Johnson prompts readers to observe and identify complex causes of violence and hatred in the reader's community, including racial prejudice, segregation, entrenched poverty and exploitation, losses of local education and jobs, ravages of addiction, and more. Readers will learn to use testimony, proclamation, guided group conversations, and other narrative devices to:



- Open eyes to realities in the community—where God's reign is not yet overcoming injustice, selfishness, inequality, or the forces of evil.
- Own the calling and responsibility we have as Christians and learn how to advocate hope for God's kingdom in the reader's community.
- Organize interventions and activate mission teams to address the specific injustices.

Sign up online for the syllabus and Zoom link.

Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups.
 Questions? Email Jennifer Cloud-Buckner
 (grow@stmarkscarmel.org) or call (317)846-4912 x. 214.

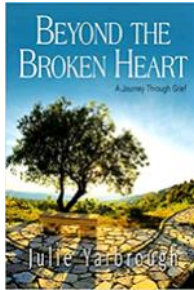
Grief Groups Begin 9/15

BEYOND THE BROKEN HEART

Tuesdays, 9/15-10/20 | 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Led by Pastor Mary Ann Moman | online

Rev. Moman will lead two online grief groups this fall on Tuesdays (at 2:00 PM and 7:00PM) for 6 weeks. If you are experiencing grief from the death of a family member or friend, please consider joining one of the groups. We will use Julie Yarbrough's *Beyond the Broken Heart: A Journey Through Grief* as our resource, available for \$10 at the church. Contact Pastor Mary Ann with questions (mmoman@stmarkscarmel.org). All are welcome. Sign up to receive the Zoom connection info at stmarkscarmel.org/grief.



New Weekday Studies

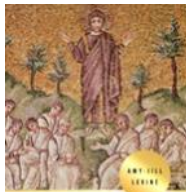
WEDNESDAYS

PASTOR'S MEN STUDY, 6:30 AM-7:15 AM

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

The Sermon on the Mount by A.J. Levine,
 9/9-12/9 | online | Books \$12

If we pay attention to Jesus' words in Matthew 5-7, how does he provide us a road map to living as God would have us live? Dr. Amy-Jill Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today. Sign up to receive the syllabus and online Zoom connection information.

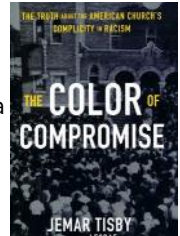


SERMON on
 the MOUNT

WED AM BIBLE STUDY, 9:30 AM-11:00 AM

The Color of Compromise by Jemar Tisby,
 9/9-10/28, Dillon Park | Books \$15

An acclaimed, timely narrative of how people of faith have historically worked against racial justice, from colonial America to present days. *The Color of Compromise* is not a call to shame or a platform to blame white evangelical Christians. It is a call from a place of love and desire to fight for a more racially unified church that no longer compromises what the Bible teaches about human dignity and equality. A call that challenges black and white Christians alike to stand up *now* and begin implementing the concrete steps Tisby outlines for a more equitable and inclusive environment among God's people, starting today. Led by Lydia Fourman (4manternlyd@gmail.com) at Noblesville's Dillon Park as weather permits.



THURSDAYS

AM STUDY GROUP, 9:30 AM-11:00 AM

Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted by Priscilla Shirer,
 9/12-10/22 | online | Books \$17

If at least 10 people sign up, this group will use the Jonah study, and otherwise might be considering some other options. If you are interested, please sign up online or email Judy Woempner (jwoempner@gmail.com).

FRIDAYS

FRIDAY AM STUDY, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

Defiant Joy by Candace Payne, until 10/2
 | online | Books \$9

It's not too late to join the Friday morning study! The first book discussion was on 8/28 and will continue each Friday morning until 10/2.

Open Groups

UMW Meeting



Tuesday, September 8 | 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Our September meeting will be by Zoom. If you are new to UMW, Welcome! For information on how to connect on zoom, please contact Mary Etta Yoho, Maryetta.yoho@gmail.com. October meeting will also be held via Zoom.

Guest Speaker will be Greta Carroll from St. Mark's. Greta will share pictures and stories of her mission experience to Sierra Leone working with Taiama Enterprise Academy, a new program of Operation Classroom, that continues to strive at educating to break the cycle of poverty. Interest groups will meet following the main meeting. Below are the groups available. For more information on Interest Groups, go to stmarkscarmel.org/umw.

MORNING INTEREST GROUPS

Bookworms—The group will be reading in October *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict. Gail Lee facilitates.

Spiritual Growth—The group will be using *Finding Peace in the Anxious World* by Erin James-Brown. Pastor Mary Ann Moman facilitates.

Make it and Take It—Directions will be sent via email with follow up the next month via Zoom. Please email Marilyn.rob@comcast.net if you are a new member of this group. Kathy Dycus and Marilyn Roberts facilitate.

Color and Chat—Fellowship group that will meet in October via Zoom. Cathy Brinkman and Deirdre Robinson facilitate.

EVENING INTEREST GROUPS

Bookmarkers—Group will be reading *The Crazy Ladies of Pearl Street* by Trevanian in October. Debbie Skinner facilitates.

Spiritual Reflections—Group will be using the *Journey-Walking the Road to Bethlehem* by Adam Hamilton. Holly Moore facilitates.

2020 Market Place

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the St. Mark's UMW has cancelled the 2020 Market Place Craft Fair. Checks that have been received will be mailed back to the vendors. It is our hope to schedule a 2021 Market Place in November 2021.

UMW READING PROGRAM

Monday, September 28 | 7:00 PM (Zoom)

The United Methodist Women's National Office recommends a diverse range of books with the intention of broadening exposure to a variety of concepts. This program organizes books into five categories. Our UMW Reading Program group selects a book from each of the categories meeting five times a year for book discussion and fellowship. Contact Susan Salter at sbf5salter@att.net for more information.

UMM Breakfast Meetings



The United Methodist Men Breakfasts are held the 2nd Saturday of every month.
Saturday, September 12

September will be a Zoom Meeting.

United Methodist Men provides a creative, supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually, and to seek daily his will. For more information about UMM or to be added to the email list, contact Tom Roberts, email umm@stmarkscarmel.org or call a UMM Board Member. You can also see what's going on at stmarkscarmel.org/umm. Come and join us!

Marksmen

September 10 & 24 | 6:30 AM
Meeting in St. Mark's Parking Lot

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.

We will be meeting in the St. Mark's Parking Lot for our September Meetings (weather permitting). Please bring your own Coffee. If you have any questions, email marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org.

Looking for a Connection? *You* are an important piece of St. Mark's!

**A message from Missi Koenig,
 Welcome & Connections Director:**

Puzzles have been a popular pastime during the last several months as we spend more time at home. Our family has enjoyed this activity together!



As we adapt to the changes of Zoom gatherings and online worship, I hope and pray you feel like you are able to connect with your St. Mark's family as one person among a large 1000-piece puzzle.

If you are looking for new opportunities to meet in person, online, or talk over the phone, please contact me at mkoenig@stmarkscarmel.org. I want to help everyone feel connected!

***Romans 12:5* - so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.**

Open Group Schedule

Mondays

COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

Will resume when we return to building

This self-help camera group meets for conversation about photographic art & technique. Bring your camera & your questions. Contact Bob Wiens, wiens@iquest.net for more information.

CAREER CURVE

10:00 AM (Available on Zoom)

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.

Tuesdays

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Tuesday, 9/22 | 11:00 AM

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! Group meets December, March, May, July, September. Contact Judy Bonnet for more information at bonnetjm@icloud.com.

PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, September 15 | 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

Harriett Tubman, the Road to Freedom by Catherine Clinton. 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. Weather

permitting, the meeting will be held in the St. Mark's Parking Lot.

Wednesdays

ROMEOS (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT)

Currently meeting in the St. Mark's Parking Lot

All men are invited to meet weekly in the Parking Lot. Bring your lunch and a chair.

Thursdays

JULIETS

Due to COVID-19 Juliets (Just Us Ladies Into Eating Out Together) will not be eating out until 2021. Look for our schedule in January. Contact Barbara Johnson, (317) 863-2689, timberbli@gmail.com.

BRIDGE

Currently not meeting

Bridge Group meets weekly. For more information contact the church office.

CRAFT & HOBBY GROUP

Join us on Facebook at "St. Mark's UMC Craft & Hobby Group". Share what you've been working on or get ideas for new projects! Contact Kathy Bartel, krbartel@gmail.com, with questions.

Reserve Parking Lot & Church Grounds for Meetings

If your group would like to meet outside at St. Mark's, see page 18 or the form at stmarkscarmel.org/facilityrequest for more details on the six spots available outside for group meetings.

Committee News

Social Justice

Resisting Racism

The Social Justice team urges you to take an active and role in resisting racism at every level. Below are some local organizations with resources to help you find ways to connect, learn, and take action. Also check out [UMC.org/EndRacism](https://umc.org/EndRacism) for additional resources.

- Carmel Against Racial Injustice
- Indy10 Black Lives Matter
- Racial Equity Community Network
- Indy Showing Up for Racial Justice-Indy SURJ
- ACLU of Indiana
- Indianapolis Urban League

Voter Registration Information

On August 26 we celebrated Women's Equality Day and 100 years since the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed, giving women the right to vote. This year also marks the 55th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibited racial discrimination in voting in the United States. We encourage all of you to make sure that you are registered to vote and then exercise that right on November 3rd, either at the polls or by absentee ballot if necessary. Check out in.gov/sos/elections for more information.

Finance

We continue to meet all of our obligations, though over the past three months, we ran deficits against donations. However, we remain FAVORABLE to budget year to date given your strong support during the first four months of 2020. Thank You. Thank You. Expenses continue to run FAV to budget as well, as expected, given the church has been closed due to the pandemic. We continue to meet all our obligations regarding our staff's wages. We have also hit the summer months, typically deficit months. Our finances are FAVORABLE as compared to last year at this time, driven primarily that given our uncertainly, we have not made any payments to our general conference (conference tithes) – note, however, that collections year over year are lower as compared to 2019. Furthermore, we had several strong months in the fall of 2019 so we remain cautiously optimistic. Uncertainty still looms, as we all know, but I am still encouraged by your continued support. Your finance committee continues to evaluate alternatives, but we have yet to be faced with any difficult decisions. Thank Goodness! We continue to pray for our church, our staff, our congregation, our nation, our teachers, and everyone facing uncertainty. Thank you for your continued support.

Bill Nicolai, Finance Chair

Trustees

The Fellowship Hall Kitchen refresh project is underway in the planning stages. The architect is making the final changes. The changes will include a new commercial dishwashing system, a warming oven, and a hand wash sink, new flooring, new ceiling and new lighting. The kitchen will be expanded in length but not width. An architectural plan will be available for viewing when the plan is finished.

Community News

Directory Updates

John and Andrea Reno
3711 Brian Pl.
Carmel, IN 46033

Sympathies

To Dorothy Wiens at the death of her brother, Franklin.

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. Please remember:

Annette Dunlap	Clara Breisch
Jane Roberts	Mary Hart
Betty Lachman	Ola Morrow
Jerry & Phyllis Delp	Vallie Williams
Mary Pielemeier	Don Ranck
Judy & Tom Hebenstreit	Hilda Meyers

Library News

Although the Library is closed in the current Reopening Phase, books may be borrowed by calling the church office or emailing staff@stmarkscarmel.org, with your request(s) from the stmarkscarmel.org/library online catalog. Borrowed books, DVD's and donated materials can be dropped in the book return box located inside Door # 2. Book sanitation will follow the same procedures as Carmel Clay Library.



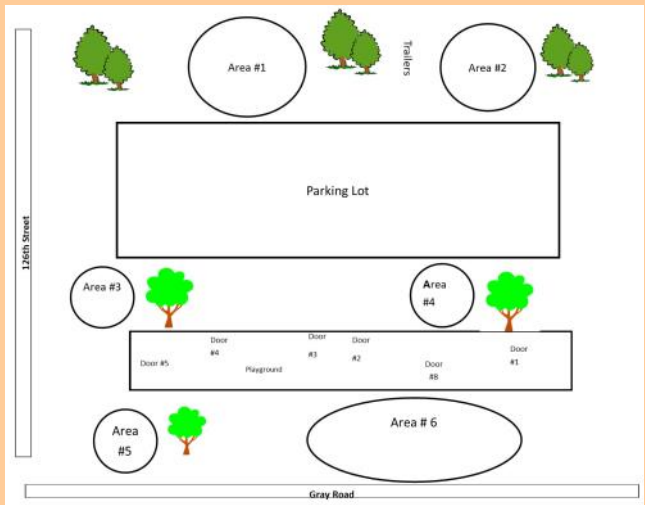
Preschool Openings!

We're happy to welcome our St. Mark's Preschool teachers and preschoolers back into the building! The preschool has a few openings for the 2020-2021 school year. If you know any families with little ones who may be interested (they do not have to be church members), encourage them to email director Jen Weixler at preschool@stmarkscarmel.org



Outdoor St. Mark's Meeting Spaces Available to Reserve

If your church small group wants to have a socially distanced meeting in the St. Mark's parking lot or church grounds, we now have six numbered spots (shown as circles on the map) to make the reservation process more clear. Fill out the form at stmarkscarmel.org/facilityrequest to request your spots for the next few weeks of summer and fall weather and Jenny Rundle will let you know where you are assigned.





Sunday, October 11

Mission in Action Day 2020: Safely serving our neighbors!

While many things look different this year, the mission of sharing Christ's love and witnessing to our neighbors in need is unwavering. MIA day returns to SUNDAY this year. We will worship through serving, working as the hands and feet of Jesus. Please join us and mark your calendar for our annual day of actively living out our motto; *"Where Mission is a Way of Life"*. All projects will follow CDC guidelines and local mandates to keep everyone safe.

Ways to Serve

ON-SITE PROJECTS

- Rice Meal Food Pack
- Personal Dignity/Hygiene kit assembly
- School/Student kit assembly
- Christmas Gift Bags for Roberts Park
- Outdoor church clean-up
- Potato Drop (Saturday 10/10)

AT-HOME PROJECTS

- Sack meal assembly for Fletcher Place
- Sack meal assembly for Roberts Park
- Prayer Warriors
- Care Cards for shut-ins
- Mask making
- Prayer shawl/prayer square making

Donation Items Needed for MIA Projects

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Rulers (12" long with metric)
- Pencil Sharpeners
- 1 Pencil Eraser (2" or larger)
- Colored Pencils (12 count box)
- Crayons (24 count boxes)
- Scissors (blunt tip)
- Unsharpened Pencils

PERSONAL DIGNITY KITS

- Washcloths, hand towels
- Comb (sturdy, non-rattail)
- Razors (with guard)
- Nail Clippers
- Shampoo (15-18 oz)
- Deodorant (2-3 oz)

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS

- Socks
- Granola bars
- Travel size hand sanitizer
- Travel size tissues
- Adult Toothbrush
- (Individually packaged)

Congratulations, Pastor Ross!

On August 15 at the Annual Conference session our former Associate Pastor, Ross Stackhouse, was ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, the final stage in the ordination process. We celebrate with Ross as he enters into this season of ministry. If you would like to send a card of congratulations his address is: 1193 Thornwood Dr., Greenwood, IN 46143.



Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, September 20

(Rain date September 27)

The Confirmation Class of 2020 will be confirmed on Sunday, September 20 in an outdoor

service. Because of space constraints, only family members will be attending the live service. Please join us on Facebook Live to welcome our Confirmands! Watch for time details in the weekly email.

Ava Adams, Kyle Brinkman, Max Bontrager, Cooper Burnett, Amber Byrd, Abigail Davis, Mason Macomber, Halle Seator, Ryan Solesky, Ava Adams, Kyle Brinkman, Max Bontrager, Cooper Burnett, Amber Byrd, Abigail Davis, Mason Macomber, Max Bontrager, Ryan Solesky, Ava Adams, Kyle Brinkman, Max Bontrager, Cooper Burnett, Amber Byrd, Abigail Davis

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Carmel, IN 46033
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stmarkscarmel.org

ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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