

JUBILEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August 2026



ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Churchwide Fall Kickoff

Sunday, August 16

An annual favorite! We will gather our entire church family in blended worship to launch a new academic year, recognize education class leaders, and launch fall programming.

Learn more on page 18.

STMARKSCARMEL.ORG/EVENTS

Upcoming Events

Take a look ahead at St. Mark's upcoming events. Please visit stmarkscarmel.org/events for all event details.



Upcoming Events

- Trinkets and Treasures
- Splash Bash & Back-to-School Clothing Swap
- Churchwide Fall Kickoff - One 10 AM Service and Connection Fair

COMING SOON



- **SAWS Ramp Build - 1**
- **Trinkets & Treasures - 7 & 8**
- **UMM Breakfast - 8**
- **Brightwood Food Pantry - 11 & 12**
- **5 Crowns Game Night - 14**
- **Splash Bash - 15**
- **Back to School Clothing Swap - 15**
- **Fall Kickoff ONE SERVICE & Connection Fair - 16**
- **Walking as a Spiritual Practice - 18 & 20**
- **GriefShare Fall Session begins - 19**



- **Brightwood Food Pantry - 8 & 9**
- **Chancel Choir & Bells Resume - 9**
- **Blood Drive - 13**
- **Potato Drop - 19**
- **Mission in Action - 20**
- **Family Promise Home Sweet Home Dinner & Silent Auction - 24**
- **Fletcher Place Breakfast - 25**
- **Red Bird Mission Trip - 27**

Pastor's Place

****Ready, Set... August!****

August has a way of sneaking up on us, doesn't it?

One minute, we're settling into summer. The next, school supplies are filling the stores, calendars are getting crowded again, and families are trying to remember where the backpacks ended up.

For students, a new school year can bring excitement, nerves, curiosity, and plenty of questions. Who'll be in my class? Will I like my teacher? Can I actually get out the door on time?

Parents, grandparents, teachers, and school staff may be asking some of their own questions, too.

Even if your life doesn't revolve around a school calendar, August still feels like a turning point. The slower pace of summer begins to shift. New routines start to form. Fall activities appear on the horizon, whether we're quite ready for them or not.

The same is true at St. Mark's.

On Sunday, August 16, we'll celebrate Kickoff Sunday with ****one worship service at 10:00 a.m., followed by our Connections Fair immediately after service.**** It'll be a chance for all of us to gather in one place, reconnect after the summer, welcome new faces, and look ahead to what's coming in the life of the church.

Fresh starts can be energizing. They can also feel a little overwhelming. The good news is that we don't step into them alone.

God is with students walking into new classrooms and teachers learning new names. God is with families adjusting schedules and with anyone moving into a new season of life. God is also at work among us as we begin another year of worship, learning, serving, and growing together. We may not know exactly what the months ahead will hold, but we can trust that God will meet us in them.

So, mark your calendar, set your alarm, and join us on August 16 at 10:00 a.m. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone together as we celebrate the beginning of a new program year at St. Mark's!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Karla



Rev. Karla Elliott
Executive Pastor



Aug. Mission Focus

Did You Know?

The Brightwood Community Center, a nonprofit organization, has been compassionately dedicated to building stronger families and vibrant communities for over 90 years. Despite the chaos in the economy and the world at-large, the Brightwood Community Center continues to be a hub for the Brightwood community, delivering excellent programming while also giving hope to families around Indianapolis. Their goals are to cultivate and expand opportunities, skills, resources, and connections to enrich lives.

Programs include:

- Healing Circles, where community members can find support in addressing trauma in the community
- Youth Summer Camp, designed to increase reading, experiential learning, comprehension skills, build character and teamwork
- Workforce Development
- Pro Se Legal Assistance programs
- “Client Choice” food pantry once a month, where clients can select foods that best meet their needs and all individuals are eligible. St. Mark’s volunteers help with stocking and assisting clients with shopping, on the 2nd Tuesdays & Wednesdays of each month.

What Can I Do?

- Volunteer at the food pantry on the 2nd Tuesday and/or Wednesday of the month. Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/missions.
- Financial donations for Brightwood Community Center can be made online at stmarkscarmel.org/give or by using the offering envelope in the blue attendance pads.



Aug. In-Kind Donations

Mission in Action Day Items, Shoes, Coats

During the month of August, we will be collecting items needed for our annual Mission in Action Day on-site projects. This includes donations of coats for Hamilton County Kids Coats and shoes for Changing Footprints. Donation items may be dropped off at our donation bins inside door #2, Monday-Friday, 9-4. Children of the church are encouraged to shop with their parents and to drop off their donations at check in for Kidz Church.

- Individually wrapped toothbrushes (no multipacks)
- Travel-sized toothpaste
- Travel-sized soap/body wash
- Travel-sized shampoo & conditioner
- Travel-sized lotion
- Chapstick
- Washcloths (new only)
- Men’s & women’s white athletic socks (new only)





Potato Drop: Sat., Sept. 19 Mission in Action Day: Sun., Sept. 20

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, living out our motto, "where mission is a way of life". Saturday fills our parking lot with a "Potato Drop", giving out 40,000 lbs. of potatoes. Sunday begins with a fellowship gathering in Wesley Hall. Then we will "worship in

action", serving as the hands and feet of Jesus. A variety of mission projects will be available both offsite in our community and here at St. Mark's. Visit <https://www.stmarkscarmel.org/mia-day> for more details and to sign up!

Participating Mission Partners:

- Servants at Work (SAWs)
- Society of St. Andrew
- East 10th Children & Youth Center
- Changing Footprints
- Hamilton County Kids Coats
- Joseph Maley Foundation
- Midwest Mission



St. Mark's Blood Drive

🩸 Save a Life — Donate Blood! 🩸

Every 2 seconds, someone needs blood. You have the power to save up to 3 lives with just one donation.

📅 Date: Sunday, September 13

🕒 Time: 8:30am-12:30pm

📍 Location: Wesley Hall

Walk-ins welcome or schedule an appointment at: www.stmarkscarmel.org/missions

✅ Quick • Safe • Life-Changing

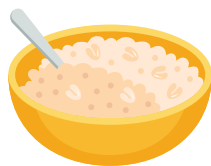
🍷 Free snacks & drinks for donors!

Be a hero in under an hour. Give blood. Give life.

Oatmeal Collected All Year

For Fletcher Place Food Pantry

St. Mark's is the "oatmeal" church for the Fletcher Place food pantry. Oatmeal donations (instant packets or cups) are collected throughout the year and may be left in the middle bin inside Door #2.



Habitat for Humanity Multifaith Build



October 17 | 8:30-11:30 AM or 10:30-1:30 PM

Join fellow St. Mark's members for the 2026 Multifaith Build at Second Presbyterian Church (7700 N. Meridian). This Build brings together congregations from different faiths to strengthen relationships while building and advocating for affordable housing for everyone. Working side-by-side, the Multifaith Build embodies the power of unity through diversity. To sign up, please visit stmarkscarmel.org/missions. For more information, contact Amy Adams at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.



Meals for Trinity Haven

During August, St. Mark's will be providing weekly dinner for the residents of Trinity Haven each Tuesday. Trinity Haven is an organization that provides safe, affirming housing for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing housing instability. Trinity Haven operates a group

home for 10 residents, ages 18 - 24, and offers the residents social support services, in addition to safe housing. Volunteers are needed to make dinner and to deliver the meals to families. Please see how you can help by visiting stmarkscarmel.org/missions or sign up on the sheets in the Gathering Area. For questions contact Jeff or Kathy Deakyne at 765-491-3749 or jkdeakyne@gmail.com.

Family Promise - Home Sweet Home Dinner & Silent Auction

The annual Family Promise dinner and silent auction, Home Sweet Home, is on Thursday, September 24 at 502 East Event Center in



Carmel. To purchase tickets to the event, please visit www.fpgi.org/home-sweet-home.

Additionally, they are looking for donation items and gift baskets to include in the auction.

Suggested items include sports tickets, museum admission, aquarium and supplies, bird bath/feeder/house and bird seed, dance lessons, gift certificates to local attractions, and services such as accounting/tax services, legal services, woodworker, or painting services. If you can donate anything, please contact Kathy Deakyne at jkdeakyne@gmail.com or drop the items off at the church office by August 2.

Share the Bounty!

Got extra zucchini? Overwhelmed by tomatoes? Don't let your hard work go to waste! Bring your extra veggies, herbs, fruit, seedlings, or seeds to our Garden Sharing Table. It's a free and simple way to feed our neighbors and share the love. Please bring fresh, clean produce. Take only what you need! Don't worry about waste. Anything that isn't taken from the table by Tuesday of each week will be delivered to the CUMC Food Pantry.



Community Food Relief

Recent cuts in government funding have placed added strain on local food relief programs, leaving many families struggling to access the essentials they depend on. With demand for food assistance rising, community support has never been more important. You can make a difference by donating food or funds to the CUMC Food Pantry, our partner organization in combatting food insecurity right here in Hamilton County. Every contribution, big or small, helps us continue providing food and essentials to those who need them most. Together, we can nourish and support our community through challenging times.



Travel-Size Hygiene Products Needed

Help us make a difference by donating new, unused travel-size hygiene items to support individuals and families in need. These small essentials—like toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and deodorant—can restore dignity, comfort, and confidence to someone facing difficult circumstances. Your simple donation can go a long way in helping our community stay clean, healthy, and hopeful. Donations can be placed in the bin inside door #2 labeled “travel-size hygiene products”.



Red Bird Mission Trip

September 27 – October 2, 2026

Spend a few days away in fellowship and service. Join St. Mark's on a mission trip to Red Bird Mission Work Camp in the Appalachian Mountains in Beverly, KY. We'll work together to build up their rural community and grow spiritually. All ages and ability levels are encouraged to join the team – there is something there for everyone!

The work, enthusiasm and love shared during the work camp

experience has a profound effect on the lives of the participants, staff, and community. The cost is \$500 and will be due September 1. Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/missions. Questions? Contact Amy Adams at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.

Brightwood Community Center Food Pantry

Volunteer at
Brightwood Food
Pantry!

Your time can make a
BIG difference in
someone's life.



We need volunteers like you to help:

- Sort and stock food items
- Pack food boxes for families
- Assist during pantry hours
- Clean up and organize

📍 Location:

4062 E. 34th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46218

🕒 Date & Times:

2nd week of each month

2nd Tuesdays: 12:30 - 2:30 PM (receiving food and shelving)

2nd Wednesdays: 1:30 - 4:00 PM (help patrons shop/restock shelves)

Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/missions

📞 Contact: Diane Newton

✉ Email: joediane244@att.net

No experience necessary — just a desire to help. Every hour you give helps someone in need. Be the reason someone eats today. Volunteer with us.

Bags of Hope Fleece Blankets



Every child deserves to feel safe, warm, and cared for — especially children in foster care who are facing uncertain times. You are invited to make **no-sew fleece blankets** to donate to Bags of Hope, an orphan care project providing duffel bags with goodies to children in the foster care system in Indiana. These simple, handmade blankets provide more than warmth. They offer comfort, security, and a reminder that someone cares. **No sewing skills needed!** Just fleece, scissors, and a little time. There are many ways to help:

- Make a no-sew fleece blanket at home – provide your own fleece or pick up a kit at St. Mark's
- Host a blanket-making party with friends, coworkers or small group
- Donate fleece fabric or money for supplies (Recommended length of fabric is 1 ½ yards)

Let's come together to show foster children they are seen, valued, and loved. For more information, contact Amy Adams.

Kidz Church Sunday Programming



The check-in station and Kidz Church classes are located in the Children's Wing. Check-in for each hour begins 10 minutes prior to the start of class or service time. For 9 and 11 AM worship hours, children will proceed to the sanctuary with their families after check-in and be released to Kidz Church after the Kidz Chat. For the 10 AM education hour, children will proceed directly to class after check-in. A list of available classes and times can be found in the bulletin each Sunday or online at stmarkscarmel.org/kids.



August Kidz Monthly Mission

Each month, Children's Ministries invites kids to get involved in giving to the church's In-Kind Donations. During the month of **August**, we will be collecting items needed for our annual **Mission in Action Day**, **Hamilton County Kids Coats**, & **Changing Footprints**. Please consider shopping for the requested items with your children and then bringing them to the donation bins at the Kidz Church check-in station. For more information about these programs and a detailed list of needs, visit stmarkscarmel.org/in-kind-donations or see page 4. Thank you for passing along the spirit of generosity to your children!

Student Education "Move-Up" Sunday!

Sunday, August 23

Move-Up Sunday is when children begin to attend the 10 AM Education Hour Kidz Church class that corresponds with their new 2026-27 school grade level. It is also when children who have turned 4 over the summer "move-up" from the nursery/toddler area to participate in Kidz Church classes.

11 AM Kidz Music & Praise programming will continue to be combined ages (age 4-5th grade). 9 AM Kidz Church is for Ages 4 - Grade 2.



Back-to-School Splash Bash!



Saturday, August 15
Kids (age 4-grade 5) 1-3 PM
Youth (6-12 grade) 3-5 PM

Calling all St. Mark's Kidz and Students!
 Want one more party to celebrate the end of summer? We have you covered! We are excited to continue our annual Splash Bash! Join us for a water slide, snacks, and tons of fun on August 15. Bring a swimsuit, towel, and water bottle and we will see you on the front lawn! Friends are welcome! **PLEASE NOTE:** This is NOT a drop-off event for kids Ages 4- Grade 5; at least one parent per family must stay to be responsible for the children you bring. Waivers will be available on-site.

Acolytes for Worship

Is your child or grandchild wanting to take on a meaningful role in our Sunday services? We are giving children, 3rd grade +, the opportunity to serve as acolytes. Acolytes light the Sanctuary altar candles before the beginning of either worship service. Email Lori Roberts at loridarvasroberts@gmail.com to learn more. Your child will have the important responsibility of carrying the light of Christ into the sanctuary!



St. Mark's Back-to-School Clothing Swap



Saturday, August 15 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Cornerstone Commons

Do your kids or teens have clothes & shoes they have grown out of or no longer wear? Between now until August 13th, you can **DONATE** them to the Back-to-School Clothing Swap! Drop off clean, gently used clothing (preschool age - college) in the marked bins outside the Children's Ministries office. No stains, tears, or missing buttons please. All the collected items will be available at the swap on 8/15. This is a fun way to help each other and our environment. Shop, socialize, and leave with a new look!

Churchwide Fall Kickoff Sunday & Education Leader Commissioning

Sunday, August 16

One all-church worship service

10:00 AM

See page 18 for details about the morning

Parents, please check-in children for Kidz Church as usual, then proceed to the sanctuary together. Children will join the congregation for the opening music, the commissioning of volunteer education leaders, and then be dismissed to class in the lower level. Please pick up children post-service before heading to the Connection Fair in the Gym.

Kidz Church Leaders, we hope you will join us for this special Sunday! All church volunteer Education Leaders will be recognized and commissioned in service for the school year to come.

Student Ministries

Scott Melvin & Jenny Miller
Youth Directors
youth@stmarkscarmel.org

Splash Bash!

Saturday, August 15

Youth (6-12 grade)

3:00-5:00 PM

Calling all St. Mark's Kidz and

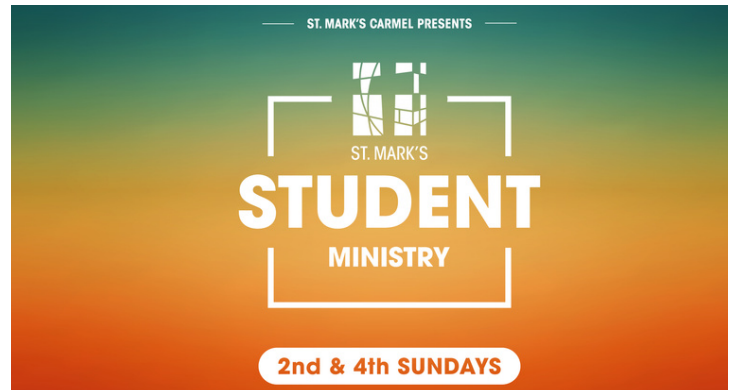
Student Ministries!

Want one more party to celebrate the end of summer? We have you covered! We are excited to continue our tradition of our water slide Splash Bash!!

Join us for a Water Slide, Food, and Fun on August 15th. Bring a swimsuit, towel, and a water bottle and we will see you on the front lawn! Friends are welcome! Waivers will be available on-site.



Youth Group Kickoff



August 23rd!!

5:00 - 7:15 PM (new time!)

Our 2nd and 4th Sunday youth group is the heart of our student ministry—and we'd love for YOU to be a part of it! Whether you're in middle school or high school, this is a space to grow in faith, build real friendships, and have a lot of fun! Please notice the time change of this, we are extending it by 30 minutes for more quality time together!

Each week includes:

- ✓ Dinner
- ✓ Games
- ✓ Prayer Time
- ✓ Lots of Fun!

Bring a friend—you never know how one invite could change someone's life.

Back-to-School Clothing Swap



St. Mark's will host a Back-to-School Clothing Swap for kids and teens on August 15 from 3:00-5:00 PM. Do you have clothes or shoes you have grown out of or no longer wear? Donate them to St. Mark's, from now until August 13,

for our Back-to-School Clothing Swap! Start dropping off clean, gently used children's and teens' clothing in the marked bins in the Children's Area Check-In. No stains, tears, or missing buttons, please

Education Hour

Summer Series: Beyond the Screen

We will be switching gears for Education Hour during the summer for a more relaxed morning. Join us in going Beyond the Screen and watching movies together followed by great discussion. We will meet in Room M to dig into how God fits into popular movies. **All incoming 6th graders are welcome to attend!**

Fall Series: Grow Study

Starting August 23rd we will switch back to our regular Education Hour lessons. We will start in room M for announcements and an opening activity then break into Middle and High school age groups for more in-depth discussion and Bible study time.

Adult Discipleship

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

Studies & Groups Launching Soon

To connect with these groups, go to stmarkscarmel.org/groups on the website. On the app, tap “Grow” > “Groups and Classes.” Books and signups are on the Connection Table in the Gathering Area.

GriefShare Grief Support Group



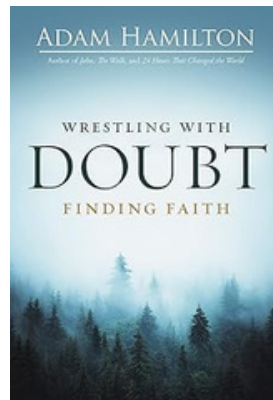
If you are grieving the loss of a family member or friend, you are welcome to join our new 13-week GriefShare support group beginning August 19. Learn more on page 19.

Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith

Fridays, 8/28-10/9, no meeting 9/4 | 9:30-11 AM | Led by Jennifer Cloud-Buckner and Annessa Miller | Room B/C and Zoom | Books \$12

Does your faith make room for questions? Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven, and how can we know?

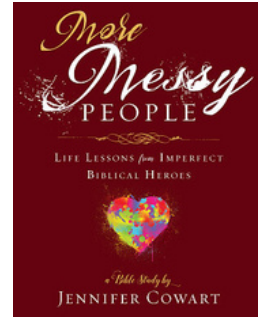
We might treat such questions as the enemy of faith, but uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God. In this book, pastor Adam Hamilton explores key questions of doubt with honesty and insight, drawing on the rich wisdom of the Bible, Christian tradition, and his experience walking with thousands of people on their spiritual journey. Wrestle with doubt and find a faith that is unafraid of hard questions and embraces mystery instead of simple answers. Beginning August 28! No meeting Sept 4.



MORE Messy People

MORE Messy People: Life Lessons from Imperfect Biblical Heroes
Wednesdays, 9/9-10/21 | 9:30-11 AM | Led by Lydia Fourman | Room J/K | Books \$16

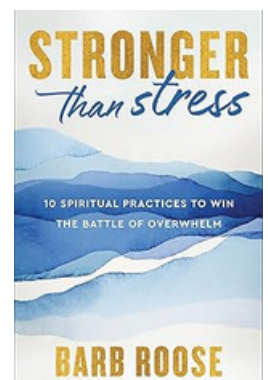
In this follow-up study, Jen Cowart looks at the messy, imperfect lives of even more biblical heroes—folks who made mistakes but who found that God could use them in powerful ways. We'll look at lives throughout the biblical narrative, including rival sisters (Leah and Rachel); sisters with very different personalities (Martha and Mary); and Moses, Elijah, Peter, and Paul to see where God meets us in our troubles and chooses us for good work, even if we feel unqualified.



Stronger Than Stress

10 Spiritual Practices to Win the Battle of Overwhelm
Thurs, 9/10-10/15 | 10-11 AM | Led by Judy Woempner | Room N (The Living Room) and Zoom upon request | Books \$12

Author and speaker Barb Roose shares engaging stories to help us explore 10 spiritual practices to find less stress and more moments of peace every day, no matter what life throws our way. By combining advice from scripture, psychology, and spiritual practices, Roose helps build readers' resilience for a world of chronic stress. We'll do some exercises to interrupt our fight-or-flight responses; identify stresses and anxieties; and add some Jesus-centered, grace-based coping tools to our daily lives.

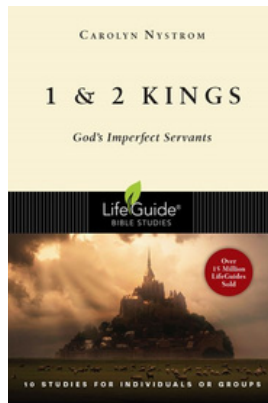


1 & 2 Kings: a LifeGuide Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9/9-11/11
Men's Bible Study, 8:00–9:00
AM & Pastors' Bible Study,
9:30–10:30 AM | Led by
Pastors Nathan Whybrew and
Karla Elliott | Room B/C and
Zoom | Books \$10

Follow this in-depth journey into 1 & 2 Kings for timeless wisdom on leadership, faith,

and walking with God. This 10-week study will examine the character of ancient rulers, including Solomon, Ahab, Hezekiah, Josiah, and others. When their choices shaped history and leadership was tested, some Old Testament kings chose to follow God with unwavering hearts. Others pursued only the fleeting rewards of fame and fortune. They navigated times of great difficulty and glorious triumph, enduring political turmoil, personal conflict, and the shifting tides of public opinion.



Mere Christianity

Mere Christianity
(Evening Group!)
Most Wednesdays, 6:30–
7:30PM | August 26
through mid-Nov. | Led
by Ken Steppe & Brian
Schmidt

This meeting will include discussion on 3-4 chapters at a time in C.S. Lewis's groundbreaking work, supplementing with a variety of study resources and videos as needed. *Mere Christianity* is the most popular among C.S. Lewis books. First presented as legendary radio addresses in 1941-1944 and then published as three separate books (*The Case for Christianity*, *Christian Behavior*, and *Beyond Personality*), Lewis set out to "explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times." *Mere Christianity* offered moral clarity and spiritual hope for Christians during tumultuous times. The work endures through generations, selling millions of copies and remaining fresh for the modern reader. Join this study to experience why C.S. Lewis still has a reputation as one of the leading Christian writers and thinkers of our age.



How to Pay for Books

In-person: Pay for books using the "Study Books" envelopes found in the church entrance, in the office, and on the Gathering Area tables. Any payment labeled Study Books can go in the offering plate, to the basket on the Connection Tables, or to the office.

Online Payments:

Use the QR code here, or go to the app "Resources" > "Pay for Books, Camps, Shirts." You can go stmarkscarmel.org/give and scroll down to "Bible Study Books." The cost for a study book is always listed on the study syllabus, the signup sheet on the table, and the online signup at stmarkscarmel.org/groups.



How to Learn More & Sign Up for Groups

See stmarkscarmel.org/groups or explore our app to see our different adult groups available, including short-term topics, Sunday classes, weekday studies, Life Groups (including encouragement groups).

If you have any questions about these or want to form your own, contact Jennifer Cloud-Buckner (grow@stmarkscarmel.org). Books and paper signups are available in the Gathering Area as needed.



Wrapping Up the Summer of Simplicity

Walking as a Spiritual Practice: Final 2026 Walks



We've had a great summer on mindful nature walks while considering simplicity and themes of decluttering what gets in the way of our connection with God. Joshua Becker's new book *Uncluttered Faith* describes minimalism as "the intentional promotion of the things we most value and the removal of everything that distracts us from it." Our walks in August will consider the many benefits of finding that kind of minimalism in our possessions, thoughts, time, and overall life. Join us in August:



Tuesday, August 18, 7:00 PM | location TBD

Thursday, August 20, 9:00 AM | location TBD

Locations will be announced the week of each walk, pending street closures and construction near our usual parks. If you want walk updates, email Jennifer (grow@stmarkscarmel.org), sign up on the Connection Tables, or connect with the Walking as a Spiritual Practice group in the St. Mark's app (see stmarkscarmel.org/groups).

Simplifying our Community Connections through the St. Mark's App

As we continue our summer season—a time of rest for some of our Bible studies and a time of special seasonal events like Walking as a Spiritual Practice—I'll be working with each study & small group's leaders and regular attendees to help you transition your group coordination and communication to the new technological platform (website and app via Subsplash) described in the [June 2026 Jubilee](#).

Now that we've begun launching the app across the whole congregation, I'm looking forward to exploring the ways this app will help us make in-group communication more seamless, keep group member lists up to date, make attendance check-ins easy, and have groups easily accessible with a couple of taps and swipes. By the time we have our August 16 Connection Fair, everyone who has a group can be equipped to help people sign up for group(s) in the new way. I look forward to working with groups and group leaders on this new unified, simplified way of staying connected as we welcome, grow, and serve together!

Many thanks,

Jennifer Cloud-Buckner, Adult Discipleship & Connections Coordinator

Fall Kickoff & Connection Fair August 16



Adult Education leaders, please plan to attend the 10:00AM one-service, churchwide Fall Kickoff Sunday for our annual education leader recognition and commissioning for the new school year! Folks of all ages can connect with fall study groups, small groups, and the many ways we Welcome, Grow, and Serve at the Connection Fair in the gym immediately following worship.

Ongoing Groups - Sundays & More

Cutting Edge

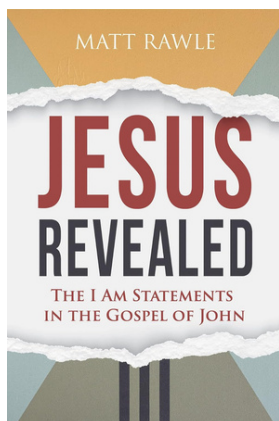
Sundays 10:00AM | Room G/H and Zoom upon request | No meeting Aug. 16

Led by Steve Click, this Sunday morning class learns about the Bible by following the weekly lectionary scriptures in a 3-year cycle through the New and Old Testaments. Contact Steve for the online meeting info (sclick52@gmail.com) if Zoom is needed.

Foundations & Friendships

Sundays 10:00 AM | Room J/K | No meeting Aug. 16

F&F's will begin Matt Rawle's *Jesus Revealed* on August 2 (books are \$12 in the Gathering Area). Led by Doug Brown, Kathy DeaKyne, and Todd Snow, this class shares and discusses Christian themes through contemporary books, Bible studies, and occasional Wired Word devotionals.



LIFT

A Widows Encouragement Group

For widows who are seeking hope and purpose in new activities and connections, the LIFT (Living Intentionally Forward Together) group has a variety of outings and gatherings. Carpooling from the church is available for off-site activities.

Planning meeting will be Wed., Sept. 16, 11:30 AM, at St. Mark's.

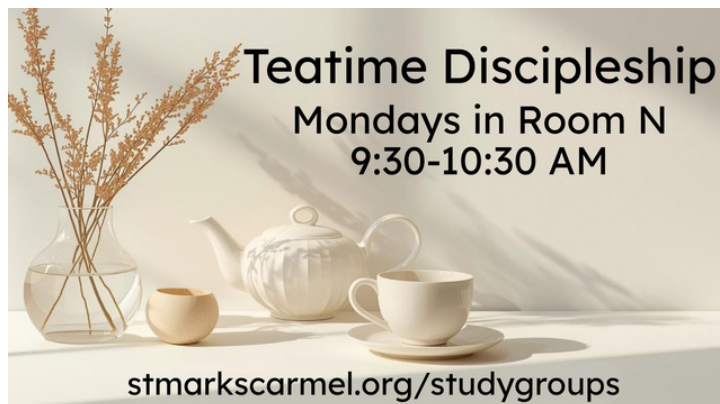
To connect with LIFT (Living Intentionally Forward Together), email grow@stmarkscarmel.org or see Mary Etta Yoho.

Reel Spirituality

Sundays 10:00 AM | Room B/C | No meeting Aug. 16

"The movie class" watches films with various Christian themes and a wide variety of topics at home and then discusses together during the meeting. Contact Lydia and Terry Fourman, 4manternlyd@gmail.com for the film list.

Teatime Discipleship



Mondays, 9:30-10:30 AM in The Living Room (Room N) | No meeting Sept. 7

If you've skipped signing up for a Bible study because you didn't have time for study prep or had schedule conflicts with some meetings, Teatime Discipleship might be just right for you! We read and reflect on the scripture and topic during the session, so there is zero pre-reading required. For an easy way to meet people and grow in your faith, just bring a Bible to Room N, where you'll find a carafe of hot water, an assortment of teas, and a chance to relax and share with others. Sign up at the Connection Tables or join the group in the app for notifications from leader Jen Cawthorne about any upcoming schedule changes or meeting cancellations.

Open Groups

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United
Women
in Faith

Ready... Set... KICKOFF!

Summer has been fun and very hot, but it's time to get the UWF party started! Join us on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026**, as we kick off another fantastic year of United Women in Faith.

We've missed your smiling faces, your laughter, and yes... even the friendly debates over who brought the best dessert! Come enjoy a get-together filled with delicious food, fun, fellowship, and a few surprises as we unveil everything we have planned for the year ahead.

Whether you've been with UWF for years or you're wondering what all the fun is about, this is the perfect time to jump in. Bring a friend, bring your sense of humor, and come ready to laugh, reconnect, and be inspired.

So circle Tuesday, September 8, 2026 on your calendar, lace up your "party shoes," and get ready for the best kickoff yet. The season starts when YOU walk through the door—and we can't wait to welcome you back for another year of faith, friendship, and fun!"

Trinkets and Treasures is August 7 & 8. Start bringing your items on August 2 and sign up to help. See page 18 for all the details.

Visit stmarkscarmel.org/uwf more information.

UNITED METHODIST MEN



UMM provides a supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually and to seek God's will daily. All are welcome to break bread and share in the fellowship as we strive to do our Lord's work.

August 8, 2026, Meeting at 7:30 AM Wesley Hall & Cornerstone

Our August Breakfast Meeting will feature a presentation by Kendall Carnes from the Indiana Secretary of State's Office—Securities Division. This agency is dedicated to investigating securities and financial fraud. It also classifies and tracks the types of scams that appear across Indiana. The presentation will include real stories, the red flags to look for and how to report scams. Also included is how AI is being used by scammers.

Future programs:

September—League of Women Voters
(*EVERYONE WELCOME TO ATTEND*)



October—Pastor Karla and her trip to Greece

UMM Mission: That every male who is United Methodist has a credible opportunity to meet, know and serve Jesus Christ, so he can become an effective disciple for his family, his church, his community and his relationship to the world. Find out more about UMM at <https://stmarkscarmel.org/umm/>

Fellowship & Interest Groups

Learn more at:
stmarkscarmel.org/groups

Find out more about groups and how to join at stmarkscarmel.org/groups. Or once you download and log into the St. Mark's UMC App, you can click the chat bubbles and join a group there!

SONG CIRCLE

Song Circle | 2nd Monday & 4th Fridays | August 10 & 28 | 7-8:30 PM

Everyone is invited to SONG CIRCLE, an informal sing-along. We will sing pop tunes like "Take Me Home Country Roads" and "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow". We have songbooks in case you don't know the words - but you probably do! No singing talent or sign-up required - just show up and bring a friend. We will meet in Cornerstone Commons.

PICKLEBALL

Thursdays | 7-9 PM

Looking for a fun weekday evening activity this winter?

Join us in Wesley Hall on Thursday evenings from 7-9 PM for some fun and fellowship as we play pickleball! Participants of all skill levels are invited and should be 16 years or older. Contact Janet Brown (jgrandeyb@gmail.com) or Doug Brown (dthbrown@gmail.com) for more information.



MOB

Methodists on Bikes

All adults are invited to join this recreational bike riding group. The MOB will ride on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month (10-12 miles at a slower pace). Most rides will start from the church parking lot at 6:30 PM. As we get closer to the end of the season, the rides will start earlier to accommodate the loss of daylight. You will receive start time change notices prior to the start of these later date rides.

PAGE TURNERS

Book Club

Third Tuesdays at 7 PM

No meeting in August. Next month we discuss "The God of the Woods" by Liz Moore! Start your reading now!



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

Join us every Tuesday for Open Gym for basketball for ages 16 and above. For more info contact Mark Moore, mvm2920@aol.com.

CRAFT GROUP

Mix of Wednesdays & Thursdays

No gathering in August. Gatherings resume in September. Contact Kathy Bartel for more information at krbartel@gmail.com.

MARKSMEN

Select Thursdays at Starbucks at 116th and Keystone

The MarksMen is a community of career and family focused men seeking to develop authentic and intentional relationships while we unplug from the daily stress and craziness that life can bring. Email marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Select Fridays

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.



ROMEOS

Retired Old Men Eating Out

Wednesdays | 11:00 AM

Le Peep | 86th & Keystone

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

JULIETS

Just Us Ladies Interested In Eating Together - Juliets will not meet in August.

Looking for a Juliet Leader! Do you enjoy good food, great conversation and connecting with other women? Our Juliets group is in need of a new

leader, and it's a wonderful, low-commitment way to serve and build community! Juliets meets once a month at a local restaurant, offering a relaxed and welcoming space for women of all ages to gather, laugh, and share a meal together. The leader's role is simple: serve as the point of contact for RSVPs and make the monthly restaurant reservation. That's it! If you love bringing people together and helping create a warm, friendly atmosphere, this could be a perfect fit. You'll help keep a meaningful connection point alive for women in our church and community. Interested in learning more or stepping into this role? We'd love to hear from you—please reach out to the church office!

Committee News

Acolytes for Worship



We have begun having a few of our children 3rd grade and up serve as acolytes, lighting the Sanctuary candles before the beginning of either worship service. Is your child or grandchild wanting to become more involved in our Sunday services and take on this meaningful role? Email Lori Roberts at loridarvasroberts@gmail.com to learn more and to indicate your child's interest so she can coordinate with your schedule and the ushers. Your child will have the important responsibility of carrying the light of Christ into the sanctuary and lighting our altar candles before the beginning of either worship service.

Are you on a Ministry Team, or Lead a Small Group or Fellowship Group? This Information is for you!

Download your toolkit for getting things done.

Committee Member Toolkit

Check out this document for an overview of How To:

- Schedule a room at St. Mark's
- Request A/V support for an event
- Request publicity in any church publication or communication method
- Use the connection tables, kitchen, or office equipment
- Request office supplies, announcements, event childcare
- ...and more!

Do you have a question not covered in this document or need more details? Contact the church office at 317-846-4912.

Community Outreach & Upcoming Events

Churchwide Fall Kickoff & Connection Fair

Sunday, August 16

10:00 AM One all-church worship service (Sanctuary)

An annual favorite! We will gather our entire church family in blended worship to launch a new academic year, recognize education class leaders, and launch fall programming. Parents, please check in children for Kidz Church as usual, then proceed to the Sanctuary. Kidz Church leaders will take children to the lower level partway through worship. Parents, pick up children before heading to the Connection Fair because there will be interactive games and activities throughout the fair for kids.

11:15am Connection Fair with fellowship and food (Wesley Hall / Gym)

After worship ends, visit the Connection Fair in the Gym. This year we are highlighting:

- Interactive games and activities at the tables for all ages
- Get help on connecting to the St. Mark's app and groups in the app
- Learn all about new groups and studies beginning this fall
- Connect to different ways that we Welcome, Grow, and Serve at St. Mark's--perhaps it's time to try something different or new.
- Popcorn!

Table booths will be along the edges of the gym, and the middle of the gym will have plenty of space (and some seating and round tables) to see friends, meet new people, and enjoy refreshments. If you have any questions, email Adult Discipleship & Connections Coordinator, Jennifer Cloud-Buckner, at (grow@stmarkscarmel.org)

Help Honor First Responders

Bakers Needed: Each month a St. Mark's volunteer delivers baked goods to the police officers at their headquarters and to firefighters at Station #44. The volunteer can choose the month that works best for them and can deliver them any time during that month. If you are interested, please contact Jan Walsh at jow3441@sbcglobal.net or at 317-908-9935.



Trinkets & Treasures Indoor Garage Sale

Trinkets & Treasures
New Dates
for 2026!

Fri., Aug. 7 | 8 AM - 4 PM
Sat., Aug. 8 | 8 AM - 12 PM



August 7-8

UWF Trinkets and Treasures Indoor Garage Sale will be held on Friday, August 7 (8 am to 4 pm) and Saturday, August 8 (8 am to noon). Donations can be dropped off starting Sunday, August 2, from noon to 4 pm. Donations will be accepted through Wednesday, August 5 at 4 pm. No clothes, Christmas trees, or large exercise equipment, please. Any questions, contact Peggy Hoy at 317-850-3132.

Join Choir and Bells

Chancel Choir and Chancel Bells return September 9! Handbells start 6 PM and Choir rehearsals at 7:30 PM.



Church Office Summer Hours



Beginning May 18,
St. Mark's Church office
will be open
Monday-Thursday
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(Fall schedule will resume August 31st)

Through August 27, the office will be open on Monday-Thursday from 9 AM to 1 PM and closed Fridays. 18

Congregational Care & Connections

GriefShare Grief Support Group Begins Soon

Wednesdays,

August 19-November 11

1:00-2:30pm

Room N (The Living Room)



If you are grieving the loss of a family member or friend, you are welcome to join our new GriefShare support group. No matter how recent or long ago your loss was, grief is a painful and confusing journey. GriefShare is a safe, welcoming 13-week support group where you can be around people who truly understand the difficult emotions you are experiencing. Each weekly session features a video with insights from respected counselors and personal stories of healing, followed by a supportive small-group discussion. You will use a workbook filled with practical tools to help you manage emotions like loneliness or anxiety, navigate changes in relationships, and move forward with hope. If you have lost a family member or friend, you are invited to join us. Register for our upcoming group on the Connection Tables or at <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/300124>. Feel free to invite a friend or family member to join the group with you. Have any questions? Contact Becky Bultemeier, Program Director, at bjbultemeier@yahoo.com.

New Member Class Interest

Are you interested in exploring membership at St. Mark's? Email Jennifer Cloud-Buckner, Adult Discipleship & Connections Coordinator, at grow@stmarkscarmel.org, to join the interest list so we can connect you with a class meeting this fall!

We will be offering at least one date this fall for another fast-track, one-session class where you can meet pastors and others investigating membership; learn more about what it looks like to welcome, grow, and serve at St. Mark's in a lifelong discipleship journey; and see our broader part in the history and mission of the United Methodist Church.

St. Mark's Library

Have You Tried Our Electronic Catalog? Available anytime... anywhere, the catalog can be accessed from your phone, computer or other device. Search the Electronic Catalog by title, author, or subject. Instructions and video tutorials are available on the News and Message screen.

Library Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 AM – 3 PM, Friday 9 AM – 12 PM, Sunday 8 AM – 12 PM

[Electronic Catalog Link](#)

Connect with Communications

Do you read this newsletter by picking up a copy at the church but don't receive it in your email? Perhaps you also miss out on the weekly announcements that are sent out on Thursdays! If you feel out of the loop on what's going on at St. Mark's, make sure to update your communications information. Go to the stmarkscarmel.org website. From the "WELCOME" menu at the top of the page, select "About" > "Contact" and fill in the form for any relevant information.

Sympathies

Our sympathies are with the friends and families of Nyla Johnson, whose sister passed on June 24; Heather Raymond, whose father passed on June 25; Phyllis Delp who passed on June 28; Jen Weixler, whose mother-in-law passed on June 27; and Donna Clary who passed on July 7. Please keep these loved ones in your prayers.

Circle of Caring

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

Carole Anderson, John and Carole Browning, Trish Boger, Doris Carlow, Donna Clary, Phyllis Delp, Doris Hemmerlein, Carol Hollinger, Mary Ellen Juratic, Dorothy Mecca, Melvin & Marlene Myers, Jane Roberts, Jerry & Brenda Weikel. If you would like to be added to the Circle of Caring or know of someone, please contact the church office.

Need a Nametag?

Add your name to the clipboard list on the counter in the Welcome Center or let us know by filling out the form at stmarkscarmel.org/nextsteps. When new nametags arrive, we'll put them in the Welcome Center. Nametags are ordered every 1-3 months in batches.

Celebrations & Thank You

Habitat for Humanity Women Build



St. Mark's Team: "Joe Newton Legacy Crew"
On Wednesday, July 8, a group of 12 women from St. Mark's and beyond came together to participate in Habitat for Humanity's Women Build. It was a meaningful opportunity to put our faith into action by serving others with compassion and purpose. As we worked alongside dedicated volunteers, we were reminded that building a home is more than constructing walls—it is helping build hope, stability, and brighter futures for families in our community. Guided by the call to love our neighbors and serve with generous hearts, we were honored to contribute our time and talents to this important mission.

We are thankful for the generous financial donations, prayers, encouragement and support from St. Mark's members. To date, the "Joe Newton Legacy Crew" has raised \$12,638 to support homes being built with, and for, local women and their families. Women Build is a powerful reminder that when faith inspires service and people come together in unity, lives and communities are strengthened. We are grateful to support Habitat for Humanity's mission of building strength, stability, and hope through homeownership.



Thank You

To the St. Mark's Community -

We thank you so much for how everyone stepped up to help make Lynn's Celebration of Life service on June 11th so very special. Karla, Eric, Kathy and the AV crew in addition to the more "behind-the-scenes" were all so instrumental in making this service as beautiful and memorable as it was. We have received numerous compliments from people, some of who said it was the best or among the best of this type of service they had ever attended or watched.

And thanks for all of the kind words, notes, cards and prayers.

Our best to everyone as we now try to find our best ways forward in the absence of Lynn. She has left a major void.

Rob Akerhielm and Family

VBS Rainforest Falls



What an incredible week at Rainforest Falls VBS! More than 180 children and 120 dedicated volunteers came together for a fun-filled adventure of games, crafts, music, and learning. Throughout the week, kids discovered the amazing truth that ****God Is Love**** and experienced that love through new friendships, exciting activities, and caring leaders. We are so grateful for the volunteers, families, and participants who made this week such a success. Thank you for helping create unforgettable memories and sharing God's love with so many children!



Growing Young Celebration



Growing Young Celebration at INUMC Annual Conference and Fall Kickoff

The St. Mark's Growing Young team was thrilled to be recognized this June at the INUMC Annual Conference's celebration of Growing Young bridge-building congregations! A video celebrating our intergenerational efforts since 2025 will be shown at the 10:00 AM worship on August 16 (Fall Kickoff).

We are grateful for our growing intergenerational interactions at St. Mark's and the growing sense of vitality on Sunday mornings and throughout our church activities, and we look forward to learning more about our next steps from a follow-up congregational survey after Fall Kickoff. Learn more about Growing Young at stmarkscarmel.org/growingyoung. (in the app: Resources > Growing Young).



Because You Give



- **Bags of Hope:** 3 no-sew fleece blankets
- **Brightwood Community Center:** 48 boxes of food given out at food pantry, serving 276 individuals
- **CUMC Food Pantry:** 8 bags of non-perishable food
- **Outreach Indiana:** \$6127.06; 95 underwear, 77 pair of socks, 25 personal hygiene items, 9 backpacks, 398 laundry detergent pacs
- **Soup's On at Roberts Park UMC:** 110 hot meals served; 125 sack meals distributed
- **Travel-size toiletries:** 12 bags
- UMCOR: \$400.00

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



facebook.com/stmarkscarmel



instagram.com/stmarkscarmel



youtube.com/stmarkscarmel

About St. Mark's

4780 E. 126th Street
Carmel, IN 46033

P: (317) 846-4912

Office Hours Through August 27

Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 1 PM,
Closed Fridays

Sunday Service Times:

9 AM - Traditional Worship

10 AM - Education & Small Groups
Hour

11 AM - The Current

stmarkscarmel.org

Jubilee Publication Note

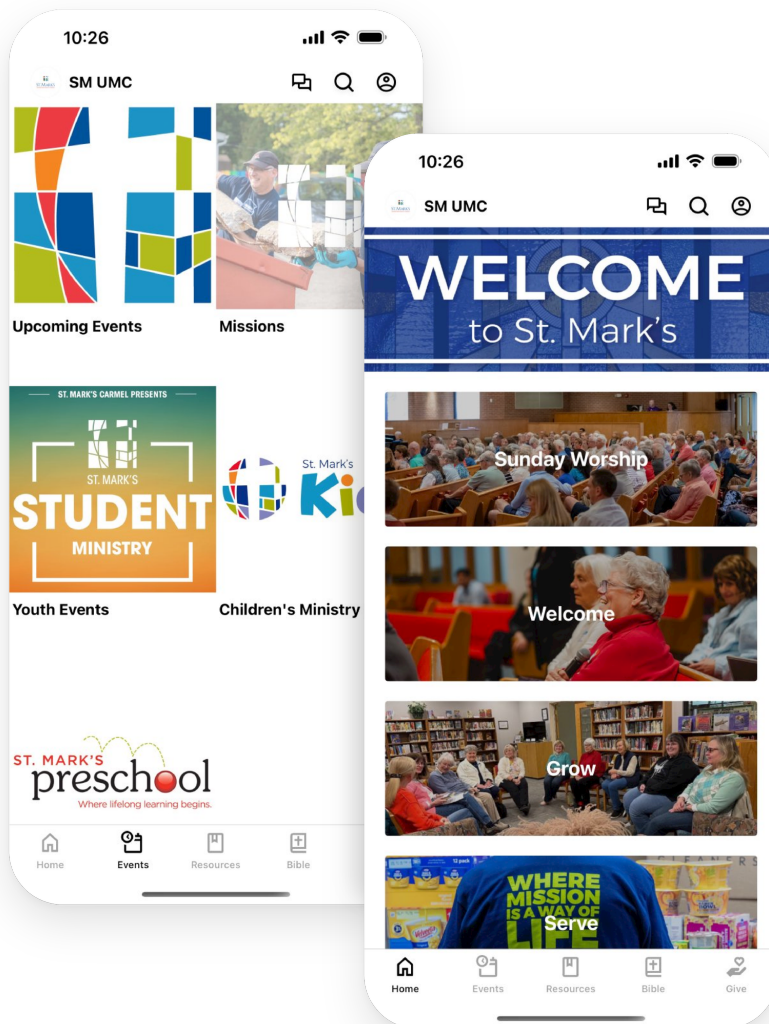
The Jubilee newsletter is published monthly, and all articles are due by the 15th of the previous month. To submit information for the Jubilee, complete the form at

stmarkscarmel.org/publicity. If you have questions regarding the form, please contact techsupport@stmarkscarmel.org.

Submit Celebrations

If you have celebrations from your St. Mark's activities to put in the newsletter, submit them to stmarkscarmel.org/publicity.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church of Carmel Indiana Inc.



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