

JUBILEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2026



ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Mission Guatemala Trip

We are grateful for the amazing week our team had serving at Mission Guatemala.

Check out their blog at stmarkscarmel.org/missions to read about their work supporting ongoing local ministry at Mission Guatemala.

STMARKSCARMEL.ORG/MISSIONS

Upcoming Events

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



Upcoming Events

- VBS
- Community Night
- St. Mark's on the Prairie
- Fletcher Place

COMING SOON



- Walking As a Spiritual Practice - 2, 21 & 23
- Habitat for Humanity Women Build - 8
- UMM Breakfast - 11
- Soup's On Roberts Park - 12
- VBS Rainforest Falls - 13-17
- Community Social Night under the tent - 15
- Youth Volunteer Appreciation Silent Disco - 15
- St. Mark's on the Prairie - 18
- Fletcher Place Breakfast - 24
- Youth Kayak Trip - 25
- Youth Group - 26



- SAWS Ramp Build - 1
- Trinkets & Treasures - 7 & 8
- UMM Breakfast - 8
- Splash Bash - 15
- Fall Kickoff ONE SERVICE & Connection Fair - 16
- Walking as a Spiritual Practice - 18 & 20

Pastor's Place

Greetings Everyone!

Philippians 4: 6- 7

6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I want to make a challenge to each of us as we move through the summer months. I realize that each of us carries worries and concerns with us each day.

I also realize that less of us are able to gather for worship during the summer because of travel vacations and many different obligations. I also want us to continue to feel connected as we are pulled in different directions.

Therefore, I am challenging each of us to live out the above scripture verses this summer. I am challenging us to read and memorize Philippians 4:6-7. I do not want us to only memorize it but to live it out. This means I am challenging you to pray. In order to stay connected, can we make a covenant to pray for each other this summer?

Ultimately I hope that each of us can experience the peace of Christ as we continue on our faith journey together. So, let us:

1. Read and Memorize Philippians 4:6-7
2. Pray for each other so that we may worry less and know the peace of Christ!

This summer, wherever you go, go with God!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Nathan



Rev. Nathan Whybrew
Lead Pastor



July Mission Focus

Did You Know?

- Red Bird Mission, guided by Jesus Christ, creates opportunities for individuals to enrich their lives and positively impact others within the mountains of southeastern Kentucky and throughout the world.
- The need is great in this isolated, rural area where chronic poverty, lack of jobs, poor housing and rugged terrain create obstacles to a fuller life.
- Red Bird Mission strives to meet the needs of their neighbors through ministry in:
 - Education: Red Bird Christian School serves students in grades K-12 and centers on developing the full potential of its students in a Christian atmosphere, regardless of their ability to pay.
 - Health & Wellness: Red Bird operates Community Health Services, providing over 3000 health education and direct services in a 3-county area, including over 300 home visits annually and a Dental Clinic that provides complete services for 600 patients each year.
 - Community Outreach: Aid includes emergency support services, a clean water kiosk, and assistance with clothing, food, and transportation needs.
 - Economic Opportunity: The Craft Marketing Program provides economic opportunity for craftspeople within a 75-mile radius of the Mission, purchasing crafts directly from the artisan and marketing them locally and throughout the U.S. The Red Bird Community Store provides 11 full-time jobs for community residents.
 - Community Housing Improvement: Volunteers provide home repairs for low-income residents, such as roof replacement, painting, building porches or ramps, and grounds keeping.

What Can I Do?

- Donations to support Red Bird Mission may be given online at stmarkscarmel.org/give or by using the offering envelopes found in the blue attendance pads.
- Join the St. Mark's team to serve at Red Bird Mission September 27 - October 2
- Learn more about Red Bird Mission at stmarkscarmel.org/missions.

July In-Kind Donations

During the month of July, we will be collecting specific back-to-school items for Fishers Youth Assistance Program and socks/underwear for Grassroot Projects.

- Fishers Youth Assistance Program (FYAP) provides professional, family-centered casework and referral services to students (ages 3 to 17) and families who reside within the Hamilton Southeastern School District. FYAP services include family education programs, tutoring, mentoring, counseling & other mental health resources, financial assistance, and scholarships to camps and other recreational opportunities.
- Grassroot Projects creates and supports equitable communities for under-resourced immigrant and refugee children. These parents are most concerned about meeting their children's basic needs of food and clothing. Grassroot Projects offers various programs including "Sponsor A Passion", Early Literacy, Food Insecurity, and Customized Care Packages for families.

Your 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.

Back-to-school items:

- Backpacks (new only)
- Glue sticks
- Composition notebooks
- Post-it notes
- Expo dry-erase markers
- Colored pencils
- Pencil erasers and sharpeners

Sock for Boys and Girls: NEW ONLY

- 0-5T

Underwear for Boys and Girls: NEW ONLY

- 4T-8 yrs.

Shop from our convenient [Amazon wish list](#) and have items shipped directly to St. Mark's or your own home.





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

Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis is hosting their annual dinner and silent auction, Home Sweet Home, 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.



Soup's On at Roberts Park

Sunday, July 12

Can you help us provide a hot meal for homeless in Indy? Volunteers help prepare and serve lunch for Roberts Park UMC's Soup's On ministry. Meals are cooked and served onsite. This Soup's On ministry provides a wonderful opportunity for us to carry out Jesus' command to "feed the hungry." Sign up to help provide food and/or join volunteers that morning, at stmarkscarmel.org/missions. Volunteers can sign up to help cook and serve food or to help with clean-up (& arrive later that morning).



Save the Date!

**Potato Drop: Saturday,
September 19, 2026**

**Mission in Action: Sunday,
September 20, 2026**



Mark your calendar and join us for our annual churchwide event, Mission In Action! We 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 at St. Mark's. Sign-ups and participating mission partners will be available in August.



Servants at Work (SAWs) Ramp Build

Join St. Mark's UMM in a ramp build on **Saturday, August 1!** SAWs© is a faith-based nonprofit organization who specialize in building wooden wheelchair ramps for low-income, permanently disabled individuals.

Their ADA-compliant ramps provide access to the community for those who have been otherwise trapped inside their home due to a disability. SAWs seek to transform the lives of their ramp recipients and volunteers through meaningful service.

When: August 1, 8:30am-1:30pm

Who: anyone age 16 & up (or accompanied by a responsible adult), no tools or skills required

Where: TBD

How to join: Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/missions

Questions: Contact Doug Brown at dthbrown@gmail.com

Support the Habitat for Humanity Women Build



Team: Joe Newton Legacy Crew

The Women Build is a unique Habitat event where women volunteers solely raise all needed funds and then spend an exciting day building a new home for a family in our community. If you would like to donate to the build, please visit stmarkscarmel.org/give and select Habitat Women Build from the pull-down menu.

Fletcher Place Breakfast

July 24, 2026

HELP NEEDED

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat" (Matt. 25:35).

Help is needed to cook and serve a hot breakfast for the homeless and low-income population served by Fletcher Place Community Center. Volunteers ride together to and from St. Mark's, 7:15am-11:15am. SIGN UP ONLINE at stmarkscarmel.org/missions.



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.

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.



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.

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”.

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.

July 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 July, we will be collecting specific back-to-school items for Fishers Youth Assistance Program (FYAP) and socks/underwear for Grassroot Projects.** FYAP provides professional, family-centered casework and referral services to students (ages 3 to 17) and families who reside within the Hamilton Southeastern School District. Grassroots Projects creates and supports equitable communities for under-resourced immigrant and refugee children. 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 or see page 4. Thank you for passing along the spirit of generosity to your children!



Campers Sing in Worship

**Sunday, July 19
9 & 11 AM**

All VBS campers and volunteers are invited to sing a medley of camp songs in worship at the beginning of both the 9 and 11 AM worship services.



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!



Churchwide Community Social



Churchwide Community Social with Circuit Thursday Band! Wednesday, July 15 | 6-7 PM

It's an evening of celebration for all ages! Church members, VBS families, and Community friends are ALL invited to gather outside under the tent for refreshments and entertainment from Carmel's Hometown Rock Cover Band, Circuit Thursday! This high-voltage ensemble delivers awesome covers spanning five decades of rock's greatest hits, from 70s classics to today's modern anthems. It's where classic rock meets modern energy! There will be dancing, hula hoops, sidewalk chalk, popcorn, and sweet treats from Tropical Sno at this family-friendly event for all ages.



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 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 15. Bring a swimsuit, towel, and a water bottle and we will see you on the front lawn! Friends are welcome! Please note that this is NOT a drop-off event for kids ages 4- grade 5. We will need at least one parent per family to stay and be responsible for the young kids you bring. Waivers will be available on-site.

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

Saturday, August 15

St. Mark's will host a Back to School Clothing Swap for kids and teens on August 15 from 3:00-5:00 PM. See page 14 for details.



Fall Kickoff & Education Leader Commissioning

Sunday, August 16 | 10:00 AM
One all-church worship service
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. See page 19 for details about the morning.

Kidz Church leaders, we hope you will Save-the-Date for this special Sunday! All the church volunteer education leaders will be recognized and commissioned in service for the school year to come.

Student Education "Move-Up" Sunday



Sunday, August 23

Move-Up Sunday is when children will begin to attend the 10 AM 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 geared toward 4-year-olds - 2nd graders.

Vacation Bible Camp (VBS)

Rainforest Falls - Exploring the True Nature of God July 13-17 | 9 AM - 12:15 PM

Campers: Age 4 - Grade 5

Volunteers: Entering Grade 6 - adults of all ages!

Registration for campers and volunteers at stmarkscarmel.org/vbs!



Volunteer to be a VBS Crew Leader!

On July 13, St. Mark's will welcome roughly 200 campers to experience God's love during Vacation Bible Camp week! VBS is a summer camp program designed to introduce children to the love and grace of Jesus. It is a week full of excitement and energy, and takes 120+ volunteers to make it safe and fun! Our most pressing need is for volunteer Crew Leaders! Please review the description below and prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve in this way.

What does a VBS Crew Leader do?

Crew Leaders are paired in teams and shepherd a small group of campers to different activity stations each day, traveling the church with at least 2 other crews and their leader teams. A good crew leader is a friend and helper...they ask questions, take kids seriously, and encourage them throughout camp. Crew Leaders do not have to lead the activity stations; they provide support by helping children remain attentive and respectful, participating in the activities, and assisting kids when needed.

Who can be a VBS Crew Leader?

Anyone entering 6th grade through adults of all ages who enjoy being with kids!

When will I need to be there?

Crew leaders arrive at 8:30 AM and leave by 12:30 PM each day. There is also a short **Leader Training Session on Wednesday, July 8, 6-7:30 PM** to help get you prepared for all the fun!

How do I sign up?

Is God nudging you to serve? If you feel that gentle tug on your heart to be a part of the volunteer crew leader team that makes VBS a reality, please sign up today by visiting stmarkscarmel.org/vbs. Thank you!

Important VBS Dates & Activities:

- **VBS Leader Training Night:** July 8, 6:00-7:30 PM
- **Music Team Rehearsal Schedule:** Sundays from 12:15-1:30 PM on May 31, June 7, June 14, June 28, & July 12
- **Community Social Night:** Wednesday, July 15, 6-7PM - Join us outside under the tent for refreshments; entertainment from the musical group, Circuit Thursday; and fellowship with all your VBS, church, and community friends! See page 18 for more information about this FUN night!
- **Youth Volunteer Appreciation Silent Disco:** Directly after Community Night, July 15, 7-9PM. - All student age counselors are invited to stay for dinner and a Silent Disco & Glow Party!
- **VBS Campers Sing in Worship:** All campers and volunteers are invited to sing a medley of camp songs in worship on Sunday, July 19 at 9 and 11 AM.
- **Now Accepting Donations!** Please check the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for camp needs. There are bins under the board to drop off your donations. Thank you!

Student Ministries

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

Summer Youth Group Bonfires

We are continuing with our 2nd and 4th Youth gatherings at 5:30-7 PM. Instead of our usual large gatherings at the church, we'll be meeting for a relaxed evening around the fire pit at different homes. These evenings will be a great chance to build deeper friendships, enjoy meaningful conversations, and connect in a more personal setting—all while roasting marshmallows, playing yard games and soaking up those summer vibes.



- **July 12-** Fourman's House- 13144 Tudor Dr., Carmel
- **July 26-** Warner's House- 10412 Mayapple Ct., Noblesville

Back-to-School Clothing Swap

Saturday, August 15

St. Mark's Back to School Clothing Swap for kids and teens August 15 from 3:00-5:00PM. See page 14 for details.

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.



Paddle Into Adventure: Youth Group Kayak Trip



Saturday July 25th- 12:00 pm

RSVP by Sunday, July 19

Get ready for an unforgettable day of fun, fellowship, and adventure! Our church youth group is heading out on a kayaking trip down the beautiful White River, and all middle and high school students are invited to join us. Check out the youth page to sign up, sign the required waiver, and for more information. Find out more at stmarkscarmel.org/youth.

Glow Party

Attention 6th - 12th graders! We want to thank you for all of your hard work at VBS. Bring a friend and come dance and glow at our Glow Party and Silent Disco on **July 15, 7-9pm!** You and

a friend will be provided with your own personal headphones, and all of the glow sticks you can handle. Wear something that glows in the dark! This is our way of saying thank you for all you do. See you there!



Education Hour

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!**



This Summer: Simplicity, Nature, & Connection

Walking as a Spiritual Practice: Upcoming Dates



All summer we'll be exploring themes of simplicity and decluttering those things in our lives that get in the way of our connection with God, including lessons from Joshua Becker's new book *Uncluttered Faith*. Becker describes minimalism as "the intentional promotion of the things we most value and the removal of everything that distracts us from it." What can you simplify to find this kind of minimalism in your possessions, thoughts, time, and life?

Join us in nature to consider these ideas as you reconnect with your spirit, with God, and with others on these dates:

- Tuesday, June 30, 7:00 PM | **River Heritage Park**
- Thursday, July 2, 9:00 AM | **River Heritage Park**
- Tuesday, July 21, 7:00 PM
- Thursday, July 23, 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, August 18, 7:00 PM
- Thursday, August 20, 9:00 AM



For June 30 and July 2, meet at **River Heritage Park, 11813 River Rd, Carmel**, next to the Citizens Energy Plant. Remaining locations are TBD and 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 group in the St. Mark's app.

Walking as a Spiritual Practice: Decluttering Our Possessions

It was great to explore our first simplicity topic, "Decluttering our Possessions," with the 13 morning and four evening attendees of the early June walks! If you couldn't make it, check out the resources below for some decluttering inspiration.

- *Uncluttered Faith: Own Less, Love More, and Make an Impact in Your World* (2026 book by Joshua Becker) is available at local libraries in our area. See an introductory video here: <https://youtu.be/KHXQW3zgY2c> for highlights of the spiritual benefits of decluttering.
- Becker describes Jesus as an early minimalist and highlights several parables. If you need a decluttering boost, remember Jesus's words: "Go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Matthew 19:21); "Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:15); and "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth" (Matthew 6:19).
- Ultimately, our stuff has an opportunity cost. When we buy more than we need or keep more than we use, each item demands our physical space, plus our time, energy, and worry—and keeps those resources from being used elsewhere. When you think of buying something, ask yourself the question: "But what if I don't?" (p. 217). If you consider keeping something, imagine how someone else could use the object or how you could be free to use the newly opened space if you get rid of it.

- Set a timer for 20 minutes and pick one of the “101 Things to Reduce in Your Home” to reduce (https://www.becomingminimalist.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/101-Things-Checklist_BW.pdf) . Repeat as needed.
- Take pictures: As Rev. Susan Gardner, Certified Professional Organizer in Chronic Disorganization, writes in her book *The Focus Project* (2017), our camera retrains our eye to notice the clutter that our brain filters out of our regular surroundings. Pictures help us overcome “clutter blindness” and provide great perspective on the before, during, and after of decluttering.
- Clear a space: Create intentional open space in your house by choosing one small area of your home this week (a drawer, a closet, or a tabletop) and completely clear out the things you no longer use.
- Trinkets & Treasures: Consider donating extra items (not clothing, not Christmas decorations) to the UWF Trinkets & Treasures sale this August. See more on page 21.

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



Sunday, 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. If you would like part of a table for your small group or activity, please email Jennifer at grow@stmarkscarmel.org. More details on page 19.

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.

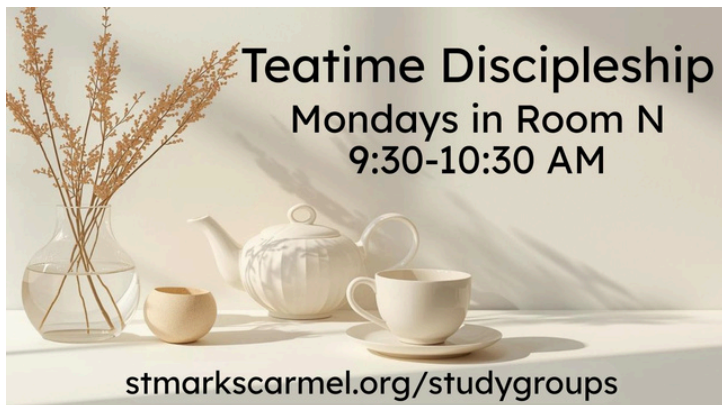
Do your kids or teens have clothes or shoes they have grown out of or no longer wear? Donate them to St. Mark's, from now until August 13, for our Back-to-School Clothing Swap!

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

Other Summer Groups

Teatime Discipleship

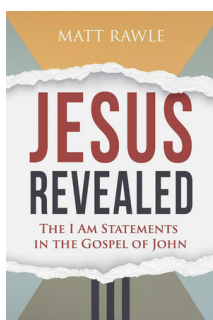


No meetings July 13, September 7

Whether you're usually in a study that's taking a summer break, or you're trying a group for the first time, you're welcome to jump into Teatime Discipleship on Mondays! There is zero pre-reading required because we read and reflect on the scripture and topic during the session. 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 at stmarkscarmel.org/groups for notifications from leader Jen Cawthorne about any upcoming schedule changes or cancellations (e.g., holidays or VBS).

No Foundations and Friendships Class in July



The Foundations & Friendships class will be taking off the month of July and will resume in August with Matt Rawle's *Jesus Revealed*. Books will be available by mid-July in the Gathering Area.

GriefShare



We have a new GriefShare team! See page 22 for details on how you can help.

Open Groups

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United
Women
in Faith

Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual Trinkets and Treasures sale coming up in August, a wonderful opportunity to shop and support our mission projects. In November, we will host our Arts and Crafts Fair, featuring handmade items, gifts, baked goods and more.

We hope everyone will join us for these special events and help make them another great success.

Have a great summer!

Visit stmarkscarmel.org/uwf for 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.

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. Our June program was a presentation by our St Mark's sponsored Scout Troop 120. Established in 1978 this troop has earned the National Quality Unit Award every year since and has 120 scouts who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. They are a very active troop participating in a monthly outing and having two summer camps each year. It was a pleasure to interact and learn about the troop with these fine young men. Thanks to the leadership and guidance provided by the adults. Future programs we are looking at are Teter Organic Farms, Pastor Karla's trip to Greece, League of Women Voters and Estate Planning including information on the St Mark's Endowment Fund 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 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 | July 6 & 24 | 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 meetings in July and August



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 gatherings in July or 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 July or 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

Funeral Meal Ministry

Has your family had a loved one die
And sought a place to grieve?
A place to meet in fellowship
Before they had to leave?

To talk about the memories
Your loved one left behind.
While eating food together
Made by people who were kind.
St. Mark's provides this kind of place.
This kind of people too.
Where meals are served to families
Is our ministry for you.

It takes lots of donations.
And many helpers too.
Do you think that this ministry
Is something you could do?

Contact:

Nancy Heller: naheller0775@gmail.com

Jenny Rundle: rundlejmaj@gmail.com

Jackie Mock: jbmock@icloud.com

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 lorldarvasroberts@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 Community Social with Circuit Thursday Band



Wednesday, July 15 | 6-7 PM

It's an evening of celebration for all ages! Church members, VBS families, and Community friends are ALL invited to gather outside under the tent for refreshments and entertainment from Carmel's Hometown Rock Cover Band, Circuit Thursday! This high-voltage ensemble delivers awesome covers spanning five decades of rock's greatest hits, from 70s classics to today's modern anthems. It's where classic rock meets modern energy! There will be dancing, hula hoops, sidewalk chalk, popcorn, and sweet treats from Tropical Sno at this family-friendly event for all ages. Learn more at <https://stmarkscarmel.org/events>.



St. Mark's on the Prairie

July 18

St. Markers are invited to purchase tickets for the July 18 performance of Symphony on the Prairie - Summer Breeze: Yacht Rock Classics. Come join other St. Mark's members for an evening of fellowship and great music under the stars at Conner Prairie in Fishers. Bring a picnic and lawn chairs to enjoy a wonderful evening. Gates open at 6 pm. Concert begins at 8 pm.



Church Office Summer Hours



For the summer, the office will be open on Monday-Thursday from 9 AM to 1 PM and closed on Fridays.

6 Plus More

Build friendships and meet new people! 6 Plus More is a program at St. Mark's where groups of six or more gather at least three times between July and October. Each group organizes its own gatherings, giving you the flexibility to plan events that fit your interests and schedule. Events can range from a dinner or breakfast to cards, board games, theater outings, escape rooms, concerts, or dining out at a local restaurant. Whether you prefer something simple or more adventurous, the goal is to enjoy time together and build lasting connections. Families, couples, and singles are all invited to join the fun! Groups have begun forming, so sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/events to be a "plus more" when space is available.

Churchwide Fall Kickoff



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.

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

After worship ends, visit the Connection Fair to see friends, meet new people, and enjoy refreshments while exploring the many ways you can connect to the St. Mark's mission to Welcome, Grow, and Serve. Perhaps it's time to try something different! Tables will be set up in Wesley Hall for all ages to learn more.

Would you like to have part of a table at the Connection Fair for your ministry or small group? Email Jennifer Cloud-Buckner at grow@stmarkscarmel.org.

Trinkets & Treasures Indoor Garage Sale



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.

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.



Congregational Care & Connections

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](#)

GriefShare Ministry Support Roles Available



If you have found some healing from grief in your life and have a heart for supporting others through

similar challenges, consider supporting our new GriefShare ministry team. We are especially in need of folks willing to provide hospitality, prayer, and care for meeting attendees, as well as additional apprentices and facilitators to round out the team. Training will be offered this summer with hopes of beginning our first GriefShare session in fall 2026. If you're interested, please contact Program Director Becky Bultemeier (bjbultemeier@yahoo.com). If you're available, the next organizing meeting for the team is on Wednesday, July 1, 1:30 pm in the Living Room (Room N) to continue our summer training and next steps. If you can't make it, email Becky Bultemeier for the date of the next meeting.

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.

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

Youth Mission Camp



Youth Mission Camp was a HUGE success, thanks to the twelve hardworking youth (ages 11-13) who attended camp from June 8-11! They served as the Hands and Feet of Christ for four days, carrying out mission projects at Changing Footprints, Fletcher Place Community Center, Teter Organic Farm, and onsite at St. Mark's. They learned about servanthood, what the bible says about serving others, and how to work together to get the job done. The impact of their hard work and dedication will be felt by many, both near and far! Check out a few photos from the week as well as a summary of what they accomplished during their time.

- Made 4 pans of beef & pasta casserole for Soup's On at Roberts Park UMC
- Assembled 95 personal dignity kits for Midwest Mission Distribution Center
- Paired, sorted, boxed, counted, labeled, & tagged shoes for 2 hours at Changing Footprints
- Sorted 13 boxes of peanut butter & 16 boxes of jelly by expiration date for Fletcher Place Community Center food pantry
- Sorted & organized clothing donations for the clothing pantry and boutique store at Fletcher Place
- Tarped 2 greenhouses with shade cloth at Teter Organic Farm
- Transplanted 1000 onions at Teter Organic Farm



Welcome, New Members



We were excited to have nearly 20 people taking part in the spring cycle of our new "Fast-Track" New Member Class! Our next class season will be sometime in August-October; if you are interested in learning more about membership at St. Mark's and/or attending this fall's class, please contact Jennifer Cloud-Buckner, Adult Discipleship & Connections Coordinator (grow@stmarkscarmel.org). Photo: Julia & Connor Bryson, Liz & Dan Strader with Pastor Nathan on June 14.

Music Camps



Music Camps 2026 were very successful! Puppet Campers acted out the stories of The Creation, Noah's Ark, The Birth of Jesus, and Let the Children Come to Me. They also learned many songs, made a new puppet everyday, and presented a show at the end of the week.

Drama Campers presented a musical called, "O Chicken of Little Faith." The musical stressed how God is with us wherever we go and included singing, acting, and dancing.

Drama Camp had 14 campers enrolled and Puppet Camp had 35. Additionally, we had 8 teen apprentices, 5 adult volunteers, and 13 additional helpers for set up and clean up! Thank you St. Mark's for your support of the children in our community and church family.



Mission Guatemala Trip

Our team spent an incredible week serving with Mission Guatemala, working alongside local staff and a youth group from Texas on a school kitchen construction project. Throughout the week, we helped with a variety of tasks that moved the project forward, from preparing materials and assisting with construction to supporting the ongoing efforts to create a safe and functional space where students can receive nutritious meals. Beyond the physical work, it was a meaningful opportunity to build relationships, learn from the community, and see firsthand the impact this kitchen will have on the lives of local children and families.



As we reflect on the week, we are grateful for all that was accomplished and for the many ways we saw God at work through the project and the people we met. We are especially thankful for the prayers, encouragement, and support from friends, family, and our church community back home. Your partnership made this trip possible and sustained us throughout the week. Thank you for walking alongside us and helping make a lasting difference in the lives of those served through Mission Guatemala.



Because You Give



- **Bags of Hope:** 3 bags of new stuffed animals and 5 no-sew blankets
- **Brightwood Community Center:** 51 boxes of food given out at food pantry, serving 301 individuals
- **CUMC Food Pantry:** 5 bags of non-perishable food
- **East 10th Children & Youth:** 12 soccer/basketballs; 72 rolls of paper products
- **Family Promise of Greater Indy:** \$520 (Night Without a Bed campaign)
- **Fletcher Place Community Center:** 98 hot meals served; 402 packets of oatmeal
- **Grassroot Projects:** 5 boxes of children's books
- **Habitat for Humanity:** \$5588.41
- **Midwest Mission Distribution Center:** \$1000.00 (Brick by Brick campaign)
- **Outreach Indiana:** \$104 (Walking for Dreams campaign)
- **Peace with Justice offering:** \$314.75
- **Travel-size toiletries:** 1 bag
- **Versiti Blood Center:** 8 units of whole blood; 8 units double red cell

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

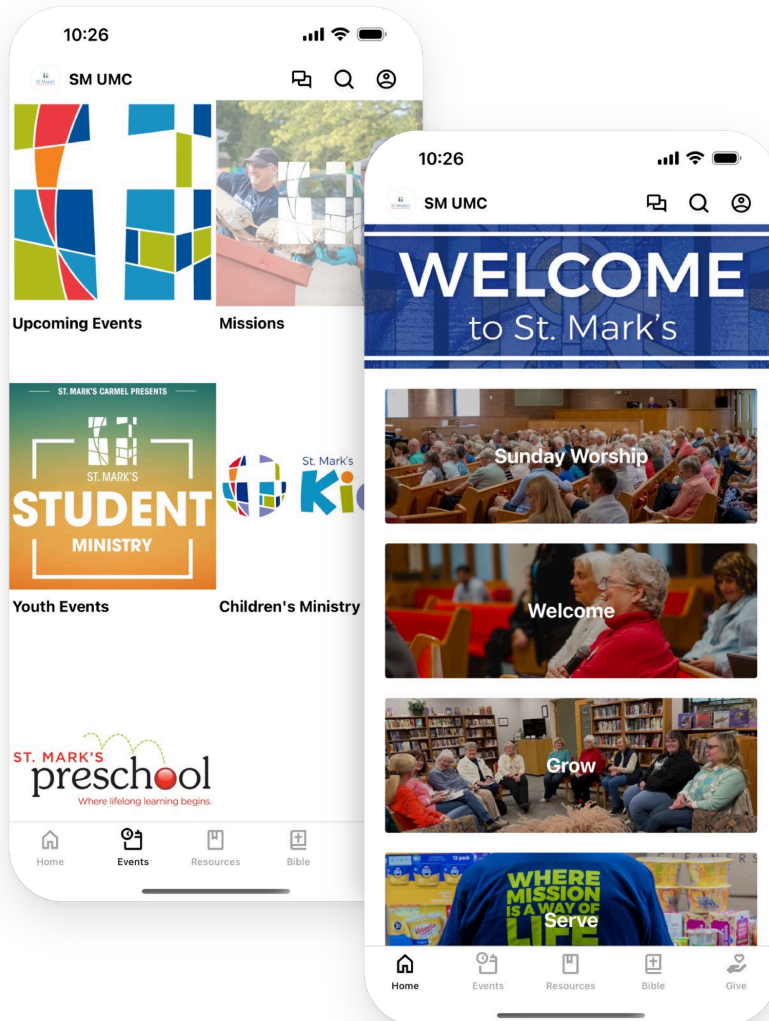
The Jubilee newsletter is published monthly, and all articles are due by the 15th of the previous month. To submit information for the Jubilee, complete the form at

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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