JUBILEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November 2026

ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



UNIVERSAL
CHURCH DIRECTORIES

Sign Up for Your Family Photo!

November 18-20 | 2:00-8:30PM
November 21 | 10:00AM - 4:00PM

Every family that participates will receive a complimentary 8x10 and a copy of the new directory!

STMARKSCARMEL.ORG

Upcoming Events

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



Featured Upcoming Events

- Arts & Crafts Marketplace
- Church Directory Photo Dates:

November 18-20 | 2:00-8:30PM
November 21 | 10:00AM - 4:00PM

COMING SOON



- **All Saints Sunday – 1**
- **Fletcher Place Breakfast – 6**
- **Arts and Crafts Marketplace – 7**
- **Youth Group – 8**
- **UWF Meetings – 10**
- **Brightwood Food Pantry – 10 & 11**
- **Soups On – 15**
- **Blood Drive – 15**
- **High School Fall Retreat – 13-15**
- **Church Directory Photos 18-21**
- **UM Student Day – 29**



- **Christmas Movie Night – 5**
- **Surviving the Holidays GriefShare – 6**
- **UWF Christmas Party – 8**
- **Brightwood Food Pantry – 8 & 9**
- **Children's Advent Music Presentation - 13**
- **Youth Group – 13**
- **St. Mark's Presents Lori Honer – 18**
- **Cantata "Let There Be Christmas!" – 20**
- **Christmas Eve Services – 24**
- **Special All-Church Service @ 10 AM – 27**

Pastor's Place



Rev. Karla Elliott
Executive Pastor

Every December, when we stand to sing "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," we Methodists are singing one of our own. Charles Wesley wrote it in 1739, and it has been part of our Christmas worship for nearly three centuries. What fewer people know is that the opening line we all love didn't come from Charles. His original began "Hark how all the welkin rings," using an old word for the heavens that even then sounded a bit dusty. About fifteen years later, his friend and fellow preacher George Whitefield revised it into the line we sing today. The story goes that Charles was not especially pleased about the edit, but the church kept singing it anyway, and the carol has been better for it.

Here's the part I've been thinking about as we've begun planning and preparing for Advent. Charles Wesley and George Whitefield were both priests of the Church of England, the same tradition that gave birth to the Episcopal Church. Methodism began as a renewal movement within that church, which means this beloved carol carries the fingerprints of both our families. As many of you saw in the recent announcement from our Leadership Board, Bishop Malone has appointed me to extension ministry as Canon for Operations for the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio. I go as, and remain, a United Methodist elder, and I'm excited to serve in this new, ecumenical, context. Our two churches share deep roots, and as I bring our Wesleyan heritage into this new work, I'm hoping to help strengthen the bonds between us.

Stepping out of my role at St. Mark's is harder than I expected. Together we have been through a season of real change. We reshaped how this church is organized and governed, built an endowment to care for its future, strengthened the systems that help our staff and ministries thrive, and watched our worship grow with new energy. None of that was simple, and I'm grateful for the trust you placed in me to help lead through it. You leaned into hard conversations, stayed at the table when decisions were difficult, and kept your eyes on what God was calling this church to become. Many of those long meetings ended in laughter, which tells you something about the kind of people you are. Thank you for loving me and my family so well.

I'll hold the memories of these years, and of you all, close in my heart. And I want you to know how hopeful I am for what lies ahead for St. Mark's! You have a wonderful Senior Pastor, gifted leaders, a staff that cares deeply about this place, and a congregation that has shown again and again its willingness to try new things and follow where God is leading. The song continues.

That's really what Whitefield's edit reminds me of. A carol gets passed from hand to hand, and sometimes the people who receive it add a line that makes it sing even more clearly. The same is true of a church. Some of you were here at the very beginning and wrote the first lines of St. Mark's story yourselves. Others have added verses over the years since, and I've been glad to add a line or two of my own. There are more verses still to come, and I can't wait to hear them.

So when Christmas comes and you stand to sing "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," remember that it's our song, a Methodist gift the whole church has come to love, and that I'm still singing it right along with you. I hope you'll also hear in Wesley's invitation, "Joyful, all ye nations, rise," a call meant for St. Mark's as you step into this next season together.

It has been a joy and a privilege to be your pastor. As we all move into our next seasons of ministry, I'm excited to hear the new verses you'll write, and I'll be cheering you on and keeping all of you in my prayers. Although I may no longer be your pastor, I hope to always be considered your friend.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Karla

Missions

Amy Adams
Missions Coordinator
aadams@stmarkscarmel.org

missionGuatemala

Hope for the Holidays

USE WHAT YOU'VE GOT PRISON MINISTRY

Nov. Mission Focus

Did you Know?

• Mission Guatemala Inc. was founded in early 2009 by Tom Heaton, a United Methodist pastor, with a mission to help meet the basic needs and improve the quality of life of under-served Guatemalan people through health, education, and nutrition initiatives and meaningful missionary service.

• Guatemala has one of the highest rates in the world for chronic childhood malnutrition. Mission Guatemala's nutritional initiatives have included full-time school nutrition programs and weekly lunches served in several community public elementary schools. Additional projects continue: medical clinic, pharmacy, nutritional programs, community development projects, vocational training programs, scholarships for students, an expectant mothers club, and more.

For more information visit www.missionguatemala.com.

How Can I Help?

• Make a financial donation by using the offering envelope in the blue attendance pads on Sunday morning or online at www.stmarkscarmel.org/give.

• Join the team and travel to Mission Guatemala for a week of service in 2027, May 29-June 5. Sign up online at www.stmarkscarmel.org/missions.

Nov. In-Kind Donations

Hope for the Holidays
Because every child deserves to feel remembered

"Hope for the Holidays" is St. Mark's annual assistance initiative that brings joy, connection, and hope to children with incarcerated parents. Through the support of our congregation, we provide meaningful gifts, messages of love, and reminders that these children are seen, supported, and never alone during the holiday season.

Learn more at https://www.usewhatyouvegotministry.org/.

Financial donations can be given at stmarkscarmel.org/give.

Please help us provide a nice Christmas for the children of the incarcerated in Indiana. Sign-up for your gifts online at www.stmarkscarmel.org/missions or scan the QR code below.

NEW ITEMS ONLY PLEASE. GIFTS SHOULD BE WRAPPED AND TAGGED WITH THE NAME OF THE CHILD.

Wrapped gifts can be dropped off at St. Mark's Mon-Fri from 9am-4pm and on Sunday mornings. **DEADLINE TO DONATE IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30.**

These children will have a brighter Christmas because of YOUR generosity! Because you give, St. Mark's gives! Thank you.

Use this QR code to be linked directly to the Sign-Up Genius!

Fletcher Place Monthly Breakfast

Friday, November 6
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.



Soup's On at Roberts Park

Sunday, November 15



Can you help us provide a hot meal for homeless in Indy? Each Sunday, 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).

Misson Guatemala Trip

May 29 - June 5 , 2027

Ready for an adventure that will make an eternal difference? Join us for our 2027 Mission Trip to Guatemala!

Together, we'll serve alongside local guides, build relationships, meet practical needs, and share the love of Christ with the people of Guatemala. You don't need to be a seasoned missionary—just have a willing heart and a desire to serve! Come expecting to work hard, laugh often, grow deeper in faith, and see God at work in ways you'll never forget.

Interested? Don't wait! Sign up today at stmarkscarmel.org/mg or contact Amy Adams for more information. The trip cost is $775 plus airfare and includes all transportation, meals, and lodging.

One trip. One team. One incredible opportunity to serve God and make a difference. ¡Vamos a Guatemala!



mission Guatemala

United Methodist Student Day



Sunday, November 29, 2026

Every year, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church awards an average of $5.5 million in financial aid to United Methodist students. The offering taken on United Methodist Student Day is one opportunity to support these scholarships. Every dollar – **yes, 100%** - received goes towards supporting and educating a new generation of principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. Supporting this Special Sunday is truly an investment in our future. Donations may be given online at stmarkscarmel.org/give or by using the Special Mission envelope in your bulletin on November 29.

Multi-UMC Mission Trip: Sierra Leone, Africa

OPERATION CLASSROOM
"Education that Changes Lives"

March 15-26, 2027

Join hands with United Methodist Church members from across our community for a life-changing mission trip to **Operation Classroom in Sierra Leone from March 15–26, 2027.** Together, our multi-church connection will empower local students and educators by providing vital educational support and infrastructure improvements. Spaces are limited, so step out in faith and **register by November 15, 2026!** Contact Amy Adams at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org to secure your spot for this unique journey of global service and fellowship!

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. Donations can be dropped off at the CUMC pantry or left in the food pantry bin in the entryway at St. Mark's. 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.

CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOOD PANTRY

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 at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.

Brightwood Community Center Food Pantry

Sign-up online at stmarkscarmel.org/missions

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

We need volunteers like you to help:

- Sort and stock food items
- Assist shoppers
- Deliver food boxes to cars
- Clean up and organize

📍 **Location:** 4062 E. 34th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46218

🕒 **Date & Times:** 2nd week of each month
2nd Tuesdays: 12:30pm - 2:30pm (receiving food and shelving)
2nd Wednesdays: 1:30pm - 4:00pm (help patrons shop/restock shelves)

📞 **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.

Adopt a Family for Christmas 2026



Would you or your small group like to sponsor a family in need this holiday season? This year, St. Mark's is excited to once again be partnering with Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County to "Adopt a Family" for Christmas. Your family/group will need to provide children's toys & clothing items, along with non-perishable food or a gift card for food, then deliver the gifts to the family on or before Dec. 12. If interested, please contact Amy Adams at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.

Angel Tree



This holiday season, please help us provide Christmas gifts for the children at E. 10th United Methodist Children & Youth Center. Look for the Christmas tree in our gathering area, late November, which will be decorated with Angels. Each Angel hung on the tree will be labeled with names and ages of the children at the Center. You will select an angel and purchase a toy in the $25-$30 range suitable for that designated child. Wrapped & labeled gifts can then be placed underneath the Angel Tree **no later than Sunday, December 13.**

Volunteers from St. Mark's will be taking these gifts to the Center during the week of Dec. 14th and putting on a Christmas party for the kids on Friday afternoon, Dec. 18th. If you would like to help at the E. 10th Christmas party, please contact Amy Adams at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.

Annual Dinner & Silent Auction benefitting East 10th Street Children & Youth Center

Thursday, December 3 | 6:00 PM | Marian, Inc.
Join fellow St. Mark's members to celebrate East 10th Street Children & Youth Center at their Annual Dinner & Silent Auction on Thursday, December 3 at 6pm. Executive Director, Jean Casmir Hill is providing a complimentary table for St. Mark's members. Please contact Amy Adams (aadams@stmarkscarmel.org) to secure your spot, then enjoy a wonderful evening celebrating East 10th and their many years of providing a safe place where children can learn and grow on the near east side of Indianapolis! If you would like to donate items or services to the silent auction, please contact Jean Casmir Hill at jcasmirhill@east10th.org or 317-339-4102.

Christmas Party for East 10th Children & Youth Center

St. Mark's will host a Christmas party for the kids at East 10th United Methodist Children & Youth Center on December 18! Set up will begin at East 10th at 2:00pm with the party following. Donations of Christmas cookies (store bought) will be accepted beginning on December 9. Please contact Amy Adams if you are able to help out at the party: aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.

Travel-Size Hygiene Products Needed

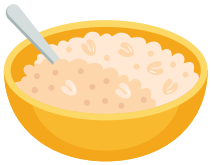
Help us make a difference by donating new, unused travel-size hygiene items to support individuals and families in need. These small essentials—like toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and deodorant—can restore dignity, comfort, and confidence to someone facing difficult circumstances. Your simple donation can 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".



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, November 15**
🕗 **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.

Reminder: All Mission Events and Sign Ups can be found on the Website under Get Connected then Missions or in the St. Mark's App under Serve.

St. Mark's Kidz

Jackie Rowell & Jen Cawthorne
Directors of Children's Ministries
kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org

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.

November Kidz Monthly Mission

Use What You've Got Prison Ministry: Hope for the Holidays
Each month, Children's Ministries invites kids to get involved in giving to the church's In-Kind Donations. During November, we will be collecting gifts for the Use What You've Got Prison Ministry. "Hope for the Holidays" is the new name for St. Mark's annual assistance initiative that brings joy, connection, and hope to children with incarcerated parents. Through the support of our congregation, we provide meaningful gifts, messages of love, and reminders that these children are seen, supported, and never alone during the holiday season. **See page 4 for a QR Code gift sign-up link.** Thank you for passing along the spirit of generosity to your children!

Children Sing in Worship



Sunday, November 15 | 11 AM
All children of the church are invited to ring and sing, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" with bells and voice at the beginning of The Current service! The monthly worship song is taught every Sunday at the beginning of each Kidz Church hour (9, 10, & 11 AM) for all to learn.

Want to make sure you don't miss any Children's Ministries events? Sign up for our email newsletter! Visit https://stmarkscarmel.org/kids or go to our app > Grow > Children's Ministry > St. Mark's Kidz to sign up.

Family Advent Devotionals

Beginning Sunday, November 15
Gathering Area near the Café
Advent is a contemplative, yet exciting season of waiting for the celebration of the Christ child entering the world and our hearts! In this season of gift-giving, holiday decorations, parties, and busy days, these devotionals will help guide your children and family through this time of Christmas preparation.





Kidz Music & Praise

Kidz Music & Praise is getting ready for Christmas!
Kidz Church at 11 AM
Christmas time is full of wonder for children, and the church is already making plans to bring the season of advent to life for kids! The Sunday morning Kidz Music & Praise class is just one engaging and creative way to experience the season. During the fall, this class gets a jump on learning Christmas carols that bring anticipation for the season and preparation for the annual Children's Advent Music Presentation. Children can pick their level of involvement from simply singing along with Christmas carols and playing instruments during class on Sundays, to learning easy speaking parts or singing solos for the December show. Carols will also be sung on Christmas Eve, and all kids are welcome to sing and participate in our special Family Christmas Eve Service. Come sing and celebrate Christmas!

Children's Advent Music Presentation

Wednesday, December 13 | 1:30-2 PM
Come usher in the Christmas season by supporting the children of the church in their musical presentation, "Really, Really, Really GOOD NEWS!" as they sing and tell the Christmas story with questions, humor, and wonder.

Preschool Dine-to-Donate: Food Florist of Fishers

ST. MARK'S preschool
Where lifelong learning begins.

THE FOOD FLORIST
· GIFTABLE COMFORT FOOD ·

Wednesday, November 11 | 11 AM - 2 PM | Church Parking Lot
The Food Florist of Fishers returns featuring made from scratch meals using local, organic, and all natural ingredients. One pan from freezer to oven and dinner is done! The Food Florist food truck will be parked at St. Mark's on this ONE special day for all to purchase frozen meals to take home. Menus and ordering information are available in the gathering area and on the church website at stmarkscarmel.org/events. Proceeds from this event will be used to continue upgrading our Preschool.

Family Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24 | 5:00 PM
Would your family like to participate in the Family Christmas Eve Service this year? There are opportunities to serve as singers or instrumentalists, scripture readers, ornament helpers, communion stewards, ushers, and greeters. Please reach out to Jackie, Jen, or Joyce and let us know if your family would enjoy a special role - there's a place for everyone!



Christmas Movie Night At St. Mark's

Saturday, December 5 | 5:00-7:30 PM
Gather your family and friends for a fun-filled evening at Christmas Movie Night on Friday, December 5, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's! Enjoy a festive night of entertainment featuring pizza and popcorn while watching holiday favorites for all ages.

Preschool and elementary-aged children can enjoy a special VeggieTales Holiday Double Feature, while families are invited to watch Home Sweet Home Alone together. This is a family-friendly event where everyone is welcome.

Please note that **childcare will not be provided**, as this special evening is designed for children and adults to enjoy together. Bring the whole family, grab some popcorn, and celebrate the season with a night at the movies! We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, please visit
stmarkscarmel.org/advent#events



Student Ministries

Catherine Proft & Jenny Miller
Youth Directors
youth@stmarkscarmel.org

High School Fall Retreat

REGISTER ASAP!! Deadline to register is November 1st!!
November 13th- 15th
Epworth Forest
We will experience worship through music, talks and prayer in the Discipleship Center. The Park will be open that is one central area for outdoor fun. Try your best at crate climbing, hatchet throwing, the giant swing, 9 square and more! End the evening with a bonfire surrounded by your friends, old and new, enjoying campfire treats and songs.
Check out the youth website, stmarkscarmel.org/youth, for more information and to register!

New Youth Director!



My name is Catherine Proft, formerly Parisi! My husband and I recently got married this October. We live in Indianapolis currently, but have recently bought our first home in Speedway, IN! We are so excited to be taking over the Youth Group together and can't wait to continue to get to know the youth! I have attended St. Marks since I was a newborn baby. I was a member of the youth group myself and grew up finding my voice and worshiping on the stage Sunday mornings during The Current. I have a bachelor's in liberal studies and a master's in social work and currently work as a mental health therapist at Crooked Creek Elementary School (Go Wildcats!). Nathan is in school for Human Services currently and is an Instructional Assistant at Allisonville Elementary School (Go Gators!). We absolutely cannot wait to become more active members of the St. Marks Community and get to play a small role in our youth's journey with Christ.

2nd and 4th Youth Group



5:00 - 7:15 PM

Our 2nd and 4th Sunday youth group is the heart of our student ministry—it's been so much fun that we are extending the time of it from 5-7:15! 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! Bring a friend and win candy!

November 8th
November 22nd
December 13th – Christmas Party

Pumpkin Patch



Thank you so much for all your support and help at the pumpkin patch this year!! It was a HUGE success and we wouldn't have been able to do it without you!!! This was our biggest year in sales yet!!



Education Hour - What We're Learning

ANTHEM

When you hear the word "worship," you might think of a church building, a choir, your favorite worship song, or maybe a special tradition. Worship takes a lot of forms, but sometimes we make the mistake of thinking worship is something it's not — or, at least, something much smaller than what it really is. In this 4-week series, we'll explore the book of Psalms (worship songs to God) as we discover that worship might be bigger than we ever imagined. Maybe worship isn't just an anthem we sing, but an anthem we live, by worshiping with all of creation, worshiping to remember what God has done, worshiping even when it's difficult, and worshiping together because we're God's family.

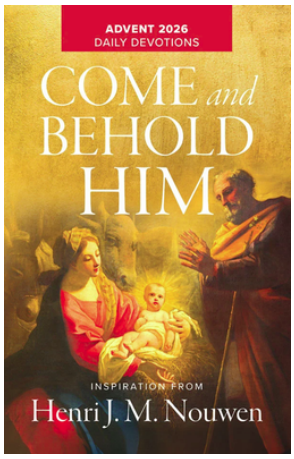


Adult Discipleship

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

Advent Devotionals Available Beginning November 15

For the Advent season of waiting and preparation, pick up devotionals for children and adults from the church entrance (Door #2) or from the table next to the Café, beginning November 15. Slow down during a busy season to reflect, pray, and rediscover the beauty and meaning of Jesus's birth. This year's devotionals include:



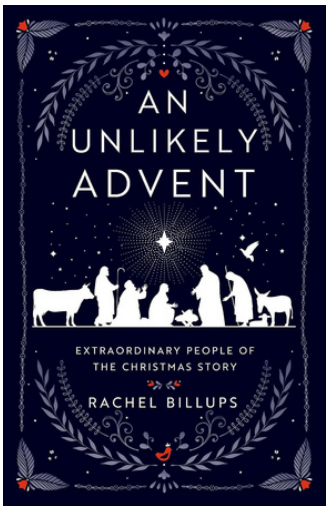




- **For Adults:** *Come and Behold Him*, drawing on reflections from Henri J.M. Nouwen.
- **For Families:** *Journey to Joy: Advent Devotions for Families*. Reflections from Kate Wicker have simple actions and prayers to help families find the joy of the Christmas story.
- **For Kids:** *Come and See the Savior!* This devotional and activity book for young children encourages prayer, kindness, reflection, and joyful anticipation.

Churchwide Advent Study: An Unlikely Advent

Multiple Groups this Advent Season | Books $12



Expect the unexpected this Christmas. This Advent study will be highlighted in our pastor's sermons throughout Advent as we explore the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. Author and pastor Rachel Billups guides readers through the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas. **No meetings November 25-29 for Thanksgiving weekend.**

- **Wednesdays,** 11/4-11/18, 12/2 | Wednesday AM Bible Study, 9:30-11:00AM | Led by Lydia Fourman | Room J/K
- **Sundays,** 11/15-11/22, 12/6-12/13 | Foundations & Friendships Class, 10-10:50 AM | Room J/K
- **Wednesdays,** 11/18, 12/2-12/16 | Men's Bible Study, 8:00-9:00 AM | Led by Pastor Nathan | Room B/C + Zoom
- **Wednesdays,** 11/18, 12/2-12/16 | Pastors' Bible Study, 8:00-9:00 AM | Led by Pastor Nathan | Room B/C + Zoom
- **Fridays,** 11/20, 12/4-12/18 | 9:30-11AM | Led by Jennifer Cloud-Buckner and Annessa Miller | Room B/C + Zoom
- **Thursdays,** 12/10 and 12/17 (combining sessions) | 10-11 AM | Led by Judy Woempner in Room N (The Living Room)

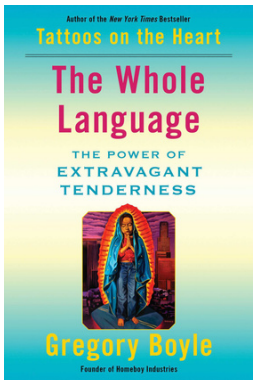
Please visit stmarkscarmel.org/advent for more information about these studies!

Studies Continuing & Beginning in November

Contact Jennifer (grow@stmarkscarmel.org) to connect with an ongoing group and to get a book if you don't find it on the Connection Tables.

The Whole Language

Fridays, 10/23-11/13 | 9:30–11:00 AM | Led by Jennifer Cloud-Buckner & Annessa Miller | Room B/C + Zoom | Books $11



As priest, author, and founder of a successful gang-intervention program (Homeboy Industries), Fr. Gregory Boyle challenges our ideas about God and about people. The Whole Language highlights how a community struggling to overcome systemic poverty and violence manages to fight despair and remain generous, hopeful, and tender.

This short, 4-week study of "the power of extravagant tenderness" invites us to follow scriptural calls for justice, to experience how the Holy Spirit can transform shame to wholeheartedness, and to act upon Jesus's call to love our neighbors—all our neighbors, even when it is most difficult.

Undistracted

Thursdays, 10/29-12/10 | 10:00–11:00 AM | Led by Judy Woempner | Room N (The Living Room) + Zoom Upon Request | Books $13



/n a world characterized by constant noise and competing priorities, Bob Goff (bestselling author of Love Does and Everybody Always) uses his pithy storytelling style to tell deep biblical truths while inspiring readers to recapture their focus, put down the endless scrolling, and live with a joyful intentionality. What distractions drain your energy and keep you from experiencing the deep, meaningful life God intends for you? Laugh with more gusto, clear the clutter of your mind, and experience stories that are like "rumble strips on the road to make you suddenly alert to how far you may have drifted from your lane." No meeting November 26.

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/payments 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.

Connect with these studies and more at stmarkscarmel.org/groups
(On app: Grow > Groups and Classes)

Ongoing Groups - Sundays & More

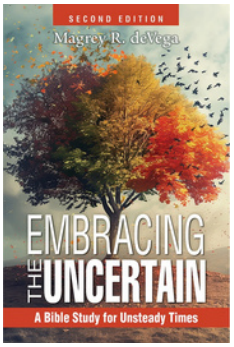
Cutting Edge

Sundays 10:00AM | Room G/H and Zoom upon request

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 Nov. 29



Finishing Magrey DeVega's *Embracing the Uncertain, 2nd Edition* in November, followed by the Churchwide Advent study. 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.

Reel Spirituality

Sundays 10:00 AM | Room B/C

"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.

How to Learn More & Sign Up for Groups

Visit stmarkscarmel.org/groups, explore our app, or contact Jennifer-Cloud Buckner (grow@stmarkscarmel.org) to see our different adult groups available. Books and paper signups are available in the Gathering Area as needed.

Teatime Discipleship



Mondays, 9:30-10:30 AM in The Living Room (Room N)

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.

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. To connect with LIFT, email grow@stmarkscarmel.org or see Mary Etta Yoho. Upcoming events:

- Sunday, November 15 – Slapfish, 15009 Gray Road, Noblesville. Meet after the 11am service.
- Sunday, December 6, 4:00 PM - Indiana Wind Symphony - "Jingle Them Bells" at the Allied Solutions Center in Carmel. Tickets are $10. Contact Mary Etta by Nov. 25 to reserve a ticket.

Open Groups

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Join us November 10 at 9:30 AM or 7 PM for our monthly meeting and interest groups.

November is World Thank Offering Month!
The World Thank Offering is a way for members of United Women in Faith to show gratitude for God's blessings and find creative ways to raise funds to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. Some women drop a coin in a box each day to give thanks for their daily blessings, while others add coins and dollars on special occasions in their lives. Please remember to bring your change, cash or checks for the WTO service in November.

MORNING INTEREST GROUPS:
• Cultural and Life Insights: "Teter Organic Farm" presented by Rev. Amber Good
• Spiritual Growth Study: No meeting in Nov., resumes in January
• Bookworms: Gail Lee "Queens of Crime" by Marie Benedict. If you don't have a chance to read the book, come and enjoy the discussion.
• Helping Hands – AM: Steff Mabe

EVENING INTEREST GROUPS
• Helping Hands: Holly Moore
• Book Markers: Debbie Skinner, "Tom Lake" by Ann Pachett. If you don't have a chance to read the book, come and enjoy the discussion.

Christmas is Coming Soon!
Save the date for the annual UWF Christmas Gathering on Tuesday, December 8th at 6pm in Wesley Hall. The theme for the event is 'Shine: Women Reflecting the Light of Christ'. Please join us for an evening of celebration, fellowship, and seeing how Christ's love shines through all of us. Stay tuned for more details.

Arts and Crafts Marketplace
Saturday, November 7 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm All are invited to the 2026 UWF Arts and Crafts Marketplace. Over 35 vendors Featuring unique, handmade items perfect for holiday gifting and decorating! Enjoy home-baked items and a light lunch at our Candy Cane Cafe. Any questions - contact Steff Mabe (steffmabe@yahoo.com or 317-374-2529) or any UWF member.

BAKERS & CANDY MAKERS! Please remember to leave your items for the Arts & Crafts Marketplace Bake Sale on the cart by the church office on Friday, Nov. 6th from 9am-noon and in Wesley Hall from 5-7PM. **Please label items containing nuts.**

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 at our monthly breakfast meetings to break bread and share in the fellowship as we strive to do our Lord's work.

Next Meeting: November 14, 2026, at 7:30am
Wesley Hall & Cornerstone
Our November Breakfast Meeting will feature Rev. Amber Good of Teter Farms. Come and learn about how Teter Farms uses food to heal both people and the planet. As an outreach of UMC in Noblesville, this organic farm is dedicated to increasing access to heathy food, fostering ecological education, and strengthening community relationships. They offer over 40 varieties of certificated organic plants and flowers. Please join us, bring a friend or new member of St Mark's.

Future programs:
- December 2026—Red Bird 2026 Mission Presentation
- January 2027—Pastor Nathan Whybrew & Installation of Officers

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 at the top and join a group there!

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 for more info.

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.

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.

PAGE TURNERS

Book Club
Third Tuesdays at 7 PM
November 17



Join us to discuss our current book selection. In November we will be discussing "Soundtrack of Silence: Love, Loss, and a Playlist for Life", a memoir by Matt Hay. Matt is the son-in-law of the late Sarah Lasbury. Meets in Room G/H.

PRAYER SHAWL

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 for more information.

CRAFT GROUP

Thursday, November 5
6:30-8:30PM
RSVP to Kathy Bartel by 5 pm Wednesday, November 4th at kbcrafting5@gmail.com. Contact Kathy for more information about the Craft & Hobby group.

SONG CIRCLE

Song Circle | 2nd Monday & 4th Fridays
November 9 & 27 | 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.

MOB

Thank you all for another great season! See you in May!

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.

Committee News

Growing Young Survey



Please take a few minutes to participate in our NEW 2026 Growing Young follow-up survey, which will allow us to gauge our progress since the first congregational assessment occurred in Aug-Sept 2025. Your input will also help us determine our next potential focus areas for our church's culture, intergenerational impact, and community outreach in the coming years. These assessment questions are based on the Fuller Youth Institute's research presented in *Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*.

Find the survey at stmarkscarmel.org/growingyoung (from stmarkscarmel.org you can click "Growing Young – Take the Survey" button, or on the app, tap Grow, then Growing Young).

*(All responses are **anonymous**. The survey asks for an email address to help ensure that individuals complete the survey only once, but the church does not receive any individual responses - only a combined report of anonymous data. If you do not want to enter your own email address, feel free to make up something with an @ symbol and a .com. Thanks!)*

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. - It's Committee Member 101

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

New Church Directory!



It's time for a new church directory! Our dates of photography are November 18-20, from 2:00-8:30 PM and November 21, from 10:00-4:00 PM. Every family that participates will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a copy of the new directory. You can make an appointment online during the week at ucdir.com (Church code: in2101, Church password: IN2101member). There will also be paper signups available on Sundays between services--just find Melissa or Becky in the Gathering Area! Families of 6 or more, please sign up for 2 adjacent time slots. Call or stop by the church office if you have questions. Our directory won't be complete without you!

Arts & Crafts Marketplace



Saturday, November 7 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
The St. Mark's UWF invites you to its 2026 Arts and Crafts Marketplace. All crafts and artwork will be home-made either by area artisans or by members of St. Mark's UWF. Refreshments will be available at the Candy Cane Cafe as well as the bake sale table. Profits made by the UWF support missions. Any questions - contact Steff Mabe (steffmabe@yahoo.com or 317-374-2529) or any UWF member.

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.

Advent Begins November 29th

Advent is coming! Check out our events, studies, and mission opportunities at stmarkscarmel.org/advent



Please visit stmarkscarmel.org/events for all event details.

St. Mark's Presents -The Hoosier Brass Band



November 1, 2026 | 4PM

Please join us in the sanctuary of St. Mark's UMC for the Hoosier Brass Band in concert. This group follows traditional British brass band instrumentation, featuring soprano cornets, Bb cornets, flugelhorns, tenor horns, baritones, euphoniums, tenor trombones, bass trombones, Eb tubas, Bb tubas, and percussion. Their mission is to perform free local concerts for the public to share and introduce audiences to the unique sounds of British brass band music. This concert is FREE and open to the public. Questions? Contact Eric at edefoest@stmarkscarmel.org.

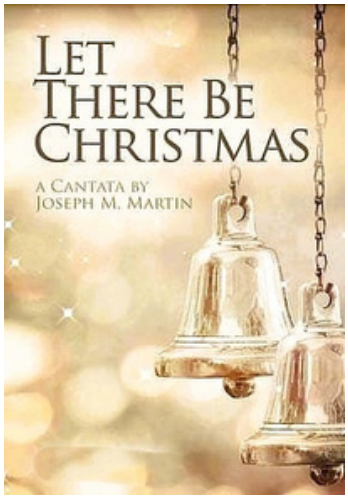
St. Mark's Presents - "Meditation on the Nativity: J. S. Bach Cello Suite No. 1, BWV 1007." with Cellist, Lori Honer

Friday, December 18, 2026 | 7 PM

Cellist, Lori Honer will present "Meditation on the Nativity: J. S. Bach Cello Suite No. 1, BWV 1007." The concept is a continuous, meditative journey that weaves the movements of Bach's Cello Suite No. 1 with traditional Nativity scripture readings and projected sacred art. Rather than a standard recital, it is designed as a seamless, restorative 45 minutes of scripture, music and visual beauty—offering the congregation a rare moment of deep stillness and emotional renewal during the busy holiday season.



Let There Be Christmas! A Christmas Cantata by Joseph Martin



Sunday, December 20 | 9AM & 11AM

Let There Be Christmas is a joyous celebration of hope and peace for the Christmas season. Using carols, original anthems, and congregational participation. From jubilant songs of praise to reflective carols of peace, and poetry by Dr. Eric DeForest, this cantata is filled with moments designed to energize the spirit of the season in your community of faith. Please come and worship with the St. Mark's Chancel Choir, SMO, and readers from our St. Mark's family.

Congregational Care & Connections

Surviving the Holidays: A GriefShare Workshop



Sunday, December 6
2:00-4:00 PM | The Living Room (Room N)
Sign up on the Connection Tables or at the link below.

The holidays are challenging when you're grieving a loss. Whether that loss was recent or long ago—and whether or not you have attended any regular GriefShare events, you are welcome to this workshop! It can feel difficult to be experiencing sadness or grief during what appears to be such a happy season. Surviving the Holidays provides encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the season. Feel free to invite any friends or loved ones who might also be experiencing grief during this time.

Register at https://stmarkscarmel.org/event/h9dkxdn/surviving-the-holidays-a-griefshare-workshop

If you are grieving the loss of a family member or friend, you are welcome to join the final weeks of our GriefShare group now through November 11. Meets Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30PM in Room N.

Connect with Communications

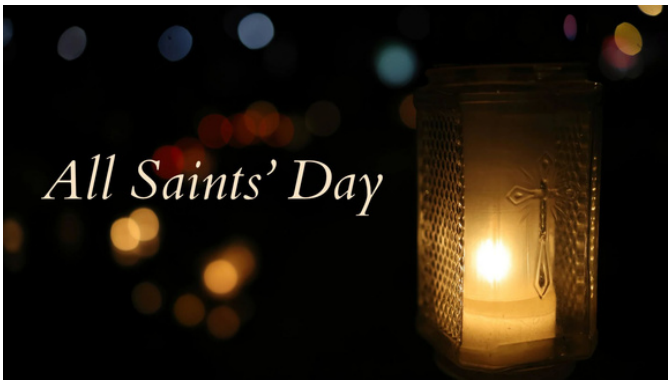
Do you read this newsletter by picking up a copy at the church but don't receive it in your email? Perhaps you also miss out on the weekly email announcements that are sent out on Thursdays! If you feel out of the loop on what's going on at St. Mark's, make sure to update your communications information.

Click here: (https://subsplash.com/u/-SVZH8R/forms/d/3c605199-acb2-4b78-b00c-c94fd37b19cd) or go to the stmarkscarmel.org website, Select Resources, then Forms, the Scroll down to Subscribe to St. Mark's and click here to complete the form.

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.

All Saints' Day



Sunday, November 1 at both worship services (9:00 & 11:00 AM)

In the Christian tradition, All Saints' Day is the annual observance of remembering and giving thanks for the lives of those we have lost, including a moment to light a candle in their memory. Please join us at either worship service on Sunday, November 1st to honor those we've lost in the past year.

Circle of Caring

The Circle of Caring 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, Doris Hemmerlein, Carol Hollinger, Mary Ellen Juratic, Dorothy Mecca, Melvin & Marlene Myers, Jane Roberts, Jerry & Brenda Weikel, Ada Hoffmaster

If you would like to be added to the Circle of Caring or know of someone, please contact the church office.

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.

Electronic Catalog (https://stmarkscarmel.booksys.net/opac/stmarkscarmel/#menuHome)

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

Celebrations & Thank You

There is so much to be thankful for this fall! Look at all the fun we have had serving our community!

Thank you Mission in Action 2026!

Thank you again, members of St. Mark's, for putting mission into action on September 19 & 20! The love extended to our brothers and sisters in Christ, serving both physical and spiritual nourishment, was beyond measure. We had over 160 volunteers serve offsite and onsite over two days. BIG THANKS to the following project leaders and helpers: Wayne Uhl, Linda Schenk, Becky McElhannon, Amy Walz, Beth Montag, Becky & Charlie Mills, Doug Brown, Scott Baker, Barbie & Roger Schmenner, David Adams, Ali & Craig Lemberg, Judy Bonnet, Janet Brown, Shari Hinrichsen, and Barba Baer.

Your generosity and service allowed St. Mark's to provide the following:

- 40,000 pounds of potatoes distributed during Potato Drop
- 1 new wheelchair ramp built and installed for a family by the SAWs Build team
- 20 large bags of shoes donated and sorted at Changing Footprints
- 7 large bags of coats and 5 bags of gloves, hats, & scarves donated to Hamilton County Kids Coats
- Grounds weeded and cleaned up at East 10th Children & Youth Center
- Cooked & served over 50 hot breakfasts to neighbors of Shepherd Community Center
- Staffed water stations & cleaned up along the course at the Joseph Maley Foundation Fun Run
- 31 no-sew fleece blankets made for Bags of Hope
- 200 student kits assembled for Midwest Mission Distribution Center
- 500 personal hygiene bags assembled for Soup's On at Roberts Park UMC

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



Left: Shepherd Community Center
Bottom: Potato Drop



SAWS Build



Hygiene Kits for Soup's On



Joseph Maley Fun Run



Fleece Blankets for Bags of Hope



Changing Footprints



East 10th Street



Intergenerational Pumpkin Patch Setup

Great weather, good friends, and thousands of pumpkins! We had a lot to celebrate on Friday, September 18, with our delivery of a tractor-trailer full of pumpkins from New Mexico. More than 70 people of all ages supported the effort--not just heavy lifting, but also passing down pumpkins, setting up pallets, and cheering on and providing snacks and Gatorade. It's one of our favorite intergenerational efforts of the year!



Annual Fall Kids Luncheon

On October the 26, Kids Church/ Kids Music and Praise had a joyous day of celebration. At the 11:00 a.m. service they presented in worship, "Over My Head I Feel Music in the Air" with singing and drumming. At Noon they held their annual Fall Celebration Luncheon with **over 50** in attendance. The families enjoyed fellowship, food and played games including Pass the Pumpkin, Fall Bingo and had a cake walk. St. Mark's is a place that welcomes all generations for worship and celebrations





Indoor “Trunk”-or-Treat

The Fellowship Team hosted an indoor “Trunk”-or-Treat event on October 25th, and we had about 50 families attend and participate! They decorated pumpkins, played games, and went trick-or-treating. A special thank you to all who volunteered: hosting tables, setting up, running games, etc. This event could not have been done without your help!





Because You Give

- **Bags of Hope:** 15 no-sew fleece blankets
- **Brightwood Community Center:** 55 boxes of food given out at food pantry, serving 212 individuals
- **CUMC Food Pantry**: 8 bags of non-perishable food
- **Fletcher Place Community Center:** 97 hot meals served; 812 packets of oatmeal
- **Flood Relief Donations:** $5045.00
- **Red Bird Mission:** 76 bars of soap; 153 toothbrushes; 28 deodorant; 13 home health assistance items
- **Society of St. Andrew:** $7029.45
- **Soup's On at Roberts Park UMC:** 115 hot meals served; 125 sack meals distributed
- **Travel-size toiletries:** 2 bags

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
Monday - Thursday: 9 AM - 3 PM,
Fridays: 9 AM - Noon

Sunday Service Times:
9 AM – Traditional Worship
10 AM – Education & Small Groups Hour
11 AM – The Current

Find out more at **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.