

JUBILEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2026



ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Pumpkin Patch

Open Daily through October 31

Help support the St. Mark's Pumpkin Patch by signing up sell pumpkins, purchasing pumpkins, and spreading the word!

STMARKSCARMEL.ORG/PUMPKINS

Upcoming Events

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



Featured Upcoming Events

- Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser
- Arts & Crafts Marketplace

COMING SOON



- Pumpkin Patch Sales - All Month Long
- Preschool Pumpkin Party - 2
- Soup's On at Roberts Park - 4
- World Communion Sunday - 4
- Youth Small Groups Launch - 4
- UMM Breakfast - 10
- Youth Group - 11 & 25
- UWF Meetings - 13
- Brightwood Food Pantry - 13 & 14
- Habitat Multifaith Build - 17
- Youth Paintball Adventure - 17
- New Member Class - 18
- Indoor "Trunk" or Treat Halloween Party - 24
- Kidz Church Fall Family Luncheon - 25



- All Saints Sunday - 1
- St. Mark's Presents the Hoosier Brass Band - 1
- Arts and Crafts Marketplace - 7
- Youth Group - 8
- UWF Meetings - 10
- Brightwood Food Pantry - 10 & 11
- High School Fall Retreat - 13-15
- Fletcher Place Breakfast - 20
- Youth Group - 22

Pastor's Place

Every time we welcome someone into membership at St. Mark's, we make a promise together. We say we'll support the church through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. This month I want to zoom in on one word from that list: service.

Service is tangible. It's a real team, a real place, a real way to show up. And as we look toward 2027 (I know! Can you believe we're looking toward 2027?!?!), I want to invite you to think about what your service might look like in the upcoming year, as a hands-on way of partnering in the ministry God is doing here at St. Mark's.

Here's what I mean. Right now, there are teams throughout our church doing the work that makes St. Mark's feel like St. Mark's – and every one of them is stronger with more hands and more voices. I'd love for you to find the place where your gifts and this church's mission actually meet.

To highlight a few of those places that could benefit from your time and talents:

Missions helps set the direction for how we live out God's call to love our neighbor beyond these walls – deciding where our energy and resources go and why.

Stewardship leads our annual commitment season each fall, helping our congregation think faithfully about generosity and what we're each being invited to give in the year ahead.

Sanctuary Stewards shape what people see and feel when they walk into worship – bringing visual artistry and care to the space so it points people toward God.

Outreach is a new endeavor we'd love to start in the upcoming year! We're forming a team dedicated to how St. Mark's shows up and offers warmth and hospitality in our community – and if you've ever wished we did more of that beyond our own doors, this might be your team.

Hospitality is the face of St. Mark's on any given Sunday – greeters, ushers, communion servers, folks setting up the café – the people who make sure everyone who walks in feels expected and welcomed.

Fellowship plans the gatherings that turn a room full of people into a family – the dinners, the events, the moments where we actually get to know each other.

A/V makes sure worship is heard and seen, whether you're in the sanctuary or joining us from home – sound, slides, and livestream.

Music offers up praise through the Chancel Choir, handbells, and The Current praise band – if music is part of how you connect with God, this is a place to bring that.

Liturgists lead us in the spoken parts of worship, guiding the congregation through Scripture and prayer.

That's a lot of ministry – and a lot of ways in. You don't have to know exactly where you fit before you reach out. If something on this list caught your attention even a little, that's worth a conversation. Talk to me, talk to Pastor Nathan, or reach out to a team leader you already know. We'll help you find the right spot.

So here's my ask: this week, take a minute to prayerfully consider where God might be opening a door for you to serve in the upcoming year. Yes – I mean YOU, too! If you're not already plugged into one of these areas, send me an email and let me know where you're feeling drawn. (Fair warning: this is also how I'll know exactly who read this letter all the way to the end. 😊)

Prayers. Presence. Gifts. Service. Witness. It's a beautiful, whole way of belonging to a church family – and service is one of the most direct ways we get to live it out together. I'd love for you to be part of it in 2027.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Karla



Rev. Karla Elliott
Executive Pastor



Oct. Mission Focus

With roots in the United Methodist Church, Fletcher Place Community Center was started in 1872, as a small outreach on the South side of downtown Indianapolis. They strive to compassionately provide programs that ease the burden of low to moderate income individuals who struggle with life's basic needs. Hunger and financial deficiencies continue to be a grave reality in Indianapolis.

Fletcher Place provides programs such as a free Thrift Store, Food Pantry, Christmas Program, Golden Age, Hot Meals, and daily distribution of sack meals. They continue to transition and expand the reach of their services, partnering with Southeast Community Services (SECS), who are located nearby at 901 S. Shelby. SECS has provided a limited food pantry, coaching for employment, education, access to financial support, as well as a HealthNet health clinic. This exciting partnership combines the services of both centers, highlighting their expertise in assisting families with a continuum of care, while also allowing the current space on Prospect to be focused on their REACH Early Learning Preschool program.

How Can I Help?

- Financial donations may be given online at stmarkscarmel.org/give.
- Cook and serve a hot breakfast along with other St. Mark's members at Fletcher Place! Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/missions.
- St. Mark's collects oatmeal for Fletcher Place's food pantry year-round. Donations may be left in the "Oatmeal" bin inside door #2.



Oct. In-Kind Donations

Fletcher Place Christmas Program 2026

During October we will be collecting specific clothing items and toys that will be given to the Fletcher Place Community Center for their Christmas Program. This provides a shopping service for qualified parents living in poverty to have Christmas gifts for their families. Fletcher Place will be assembling specific wish lists for respective families, in hopes of providing a nice Christmas for each family.

Please visit stmarkscarmel.org/missions or pick up a postcard in the gathering area with a QR code for the sign-up link. Donations should be NEW and UNWRAPPED and may be dropped off at St. Mark's no later than Sunday, November 1. For more information, contact Amy Adams: aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.



Serve Our Neighbors: Flood Relief Meal

Our neighbors in a Noblesville neighborhood have been greatly impacted by the recent floods, and we have an opportunity to show them Christ's love in a very practical way. Our church is organizing a meal for flood-affected residents, and we need volunteers to help cook, prepare, serve, and clean up!

♥ Ways you can help:

- Cook or prepare food
- Help set up and serve the meal
- Assist with cleanup afterward
- Pray for the families and our community



Whether you can provide a dish, lend a helping hand, or serve for an hour, every contribution matters.

📍 Location: Riverwood Clubhouse, Hiawatha Drive, Noblesville, IN

📅 Date: October 15

🕒 Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

📄 Sign up: www.stmarkscarmel.org/missions

Let's come together as a church family to care for our neighbors, offer encouragement, and be a tangible expression of God's love during a difficult time.

“Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” — 1 John 3:18

Will you join us in serving?

World Communion Day

Sunday, October 4



World Communion Sunday is a denomination-wide celebration emphasizing the value of education and training. We commemorate this day by giving generously to support young adults and make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. The remainder provides grants to support training for worldwide inclusion, diversity, equity, and access.

Your gift is a practical expression of care, equipping students to shape a hopeful future. Supporting United Methodist students offers both financial and spiritual encouragement, demonstrating the church's confidence in their potential. On World Communion Sunday, we join ecumenically in acknowledging our unity in Christ as we gather around His table. Financial donations may be made by using the special mission offering envelope in your bulletin, or online at stmarkscarmel.org/give.

Habitat for Humanity Multifaith Build

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

Sign up by September 30

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



Brightwood Community Center Food Pantry

Volunteer at
Brightwood Food
Pantry!

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



We need volunteers like you to help:

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

📍 Location:

4062 E. 34th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46218

🕒 Date & Times:

2nd week of each month

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

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

Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/missions

📞 Contact: Diane Newton

✉ Email: joediane244@att.net

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

Bags of Hope Fleece Blankets



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

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

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



Mission Guatemala Trip

May 29 - June 5 , 2027

Join us on a mission trip to Mission Guatemala in San Andrés Semetabaj to “do all the good we can” for the people of this community through love and service.

The trip cost is \$750 plus airfare and includes all transportation, meals, and lodging. All ages are welcome to join the team, but due to the potential work projects and length of the trip, it is most appropriate for youth ages 13 and up. To sign up for the trip, visit stmarkscarmel.org/mg. Questions? Please contact Amy Adams at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.



Soup's On at Roberts Park



Sunday, November 15

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).

Multi-UMC Mission Trip: Sierra Leone, Africa



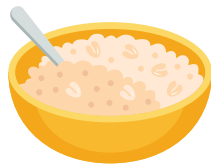
March 15-26, 2027

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!

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.



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.

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 combating food insecurity right here in Hamilton County. Every contribution, big or small, helps us continue providing food and essentials to those who need them most. Together, we can nourish and support our community through challenging times.



Travel-Size Hygiene Products Needed

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



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.

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.

October Kidz Monthly Mission

Fletcher Place Christmas Program 2026

Each month, Children's Ministries invites kids to get involved in giving to the church's In-Kind Donations. During October, we will be collecting specific clothing items and toys that will be given to the Fletcher Place Community Center for their Christmas Program. This provides a shopping service for qualified parents living in poverty to have Christmas gifts for their families. Donations should be NEW and UNWRAPPED and may be dropped off in the donation bins at check-in for Kidz Church no later than Sunday, November 1. Visit stmarkscarmel.org/in-kind-donations or see page 4 for a sign-up link. Thank you for passing along the spirit of generosity to your children!



Indoor "Trunk" or Treat Halloween Party

Saturday, October 24 | 3-5 PM | Wesley Hall

Get into the spooky spirit! The whole family is invited to join us on October 24th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. for our indoor "trunk" or treat party in Wesley Hall! We'll have trick-or-treating, games, jack-o-lantern decorating, and light snacks. Remember to wear a costume and bring a trick-or-treat bag! This is not a drop-off event. Interested in hosting a trick-or-treat table? Sign up by October 20th at stmarkscarmel.org/events.



Children Sing in Worship



Sunday, October 25 | 11 AM

All children of the church are invited to sing in worship 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.

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 familiar Christmas carols that bring anticipation and help prepare for the annual Children's Advent Musical. Children can pick their level of involvement from simply singing along to familiar 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!



Save the Dates

- Children's Advent Musical, December 13, 1:30 PM
- Family Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 5:00 PM

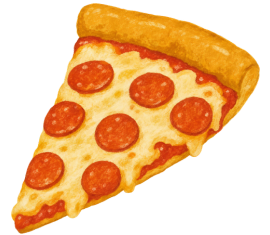
Kidz Church Fall Family Luncheon



Sunday, October 25 | 12-1 PM

| Wesley Hall

All Kidz Church families are welcome to attend the fall pizza party after church in Wesley Hall!



There will be plenty of games, food, music, and fun! Please RSVP to Joyce Click at jclick@stmarkscarmel.org.

Preschool Pumpkin Party



Friday, October 2 | 5-7 PM | Church Parking Lot

Everyone is welcome to kick off the new school year by celebrating and supporting St. Mark's Preschool! The Pumpkin Patch will be open for business with pumpkins and gourd options in all shapes, sizes, and colors.

There will also be early childhood games, face painting, pizza, and icy treats from Tropical Sno. Check out the flyer at stmarkscarmel.org/events for details on how to pre-pay the entrance fee & pizza orders. It's the perfect family fall evening!



Student Ministries

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

Paintball Adventure



Get ready for an epic day of strategy and fun! Our youth group is heading out for a paintball adventure on **October 17**. We will meet at the church to ride together; you must register by October 11 and complete your online waiver.

Event Details

- When: October 17, 12-5 PM
- Where: Meet at St. Mark's UMC
- Cost: \$10 per person
- Bring: Wear old hoodies and pants/ayers to protect your skin, sturdy shoes, and bring a water bottle.

Next Steps for Parents

- Sign Up: Register your youth by October 11 at <https://stmarkscarmel.org/event/bmkz9d2/youth-paint-ball-adventure>.
- Waiver: Fill out the required safety waiver online before the event day. No waiver means no play!

High School Fall Retreat



Register Now!

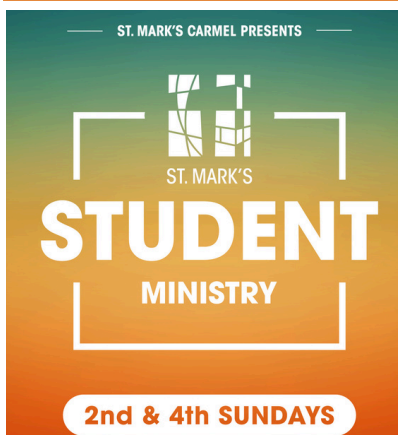
November 13th- 15th

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 for more information and to register!

2nd and 4th Youth Group



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

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!

October 11th- NO YOUTH GROUP Enjoy Fall Break

October 25th - Youth Drivers Blessing

November 11th

November 22nd

December 13th - Christmas Party

Youth Drivers Blessing



A Special Moment for Our Teen Drivers

Are you or someone you love just starting to drive? Join us for a special blessing of our youth drivers during our regular Sunday evening youth group on October 25th at 5:00pm.

We want to celebrate this exciting milestone with you and pray for safety, wisdom, and confidence on the road. Each young driver will receive a small keepsake and personalized blessing as we ask God to guide and protect them on every journey.

We invite all high school students who have received their driver's license or learners permits. Let's lift up our teens in prayer as they take the wheel!

Pumpkin Patch



The Pumpkin Patch is up and running! It's going to be a fun and profitable fundraiser, but we need your help to make it a success! Proceeds will go to help Youth programs and the preschool.

We are asking all youth planning to attend summer camp to sign up for 4 shifts and all other youth to sign up for at least one shift. The proceeds of this fundraiser help with the youth budget, keeps the cost of all our fun outings low and provides the money to help cover all summer camps.

Bring warm cider and enjoy the beautiful fall weather with your friends while raising money for the youth group!

We are reserving Sunday as youth volunteer day so sign up at:

<https://stmarkscarmel.org/pumpkins>

Education Hour - What We're Learning

In The Shadows

Where there is shadow, there is light, so the shadows don't have to scare us. As we grow and experience more life, we might find the shadows of doubt or questions creeping towards us. Rather than run from the shadows, we can look to God to cast some light on the situation. In this 4-week series from the Old and New Testaments, we'll explore how we can step into the light whenever we doubt God's presence.



Studies Continuing & Beginning in October

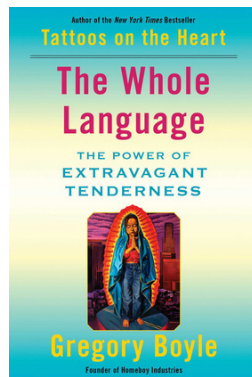
Contact Jennifer (grow@stmarkscarmel.org) to connect with an ongoing group and to get a book if you don't find it on the Connection Tables.

- **GriefShare (Grief Support Group)** | Wednesdays, now through 11/11 | 1:00-2:30 PM | Room N (The Living Room). New attendees are welcome anytime during the 13-week group. See more on page 21.
- **Men's Bible Study - 1 & 2 Kings** | Wednesdays, now through 11/11 | 8:00-9:00 AM | Room B/C and Zoom
- **Pastors' Bible Study - 1 & 2 Kings** | Wednesdays, now through 11/11 | 9:30-10:30 AM | Room B/C and Zoom
- **Evening Group - C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*** | now through 11/18, NO meeting 10/14 | 6:30-7:30 PM | Room N (The Living Room)
- **Wednesday AM Study - MORE Messy People** | Wednesdays, now through 10/14 | 9:30-11AM | Room J/K - no meetings on 10/21-10/28. Will begin the churchwide Advent study, *An Unlikely Advent*, on 11/4.

Friday AM Study

The Whole Language: The Power of Extravagant Tenderness
Fridays, 10/23-11/13 | 9:30-11:00 AM | Led by Jennifer Cloud-Buckner & Annessa Miller | Room B/C + Zoom | Books \$11

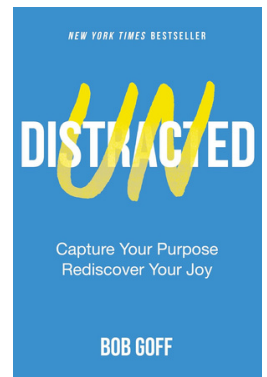
For more than thirty years, beloved Jesuit priest and bestselling author Gregory Boyle has transformed thousands of lives through his work as the founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest and most successful gang-intervention program in the world. The stories in *The Whole Language* show how a community struggling to overcome systemic poverty and violence manages to fight despair and remain generous, hopeful, and tender. Father Boyle challenges our ideas about God and about people; offers encouragement, humor, and hope; and provides a window into a world filled with fellowship, compassion, and fewer barriers. This short, 4-week study of "the power of extravagant tenderness" invites us to treat others and ourselves with acceptance and tenderness. It also touches on themes that keep arising in our Friday study discussions: following scriptural calls for justice, the Holy Spirit's power to transform shame to wholeheartedness, and acting upon Jesus's call to love our neighbors—all our neighbors, even when it is most difficult.



Thursday AM Study

Undistracted: Capture Your Purpose. Rediscover Your Joy.
Thursdays, 10/29-12/10 | 10:00-11:00 AM | Led by Judy Woempner | Room N (The Living Room) + Zoom Upon Request | Books \$13

In 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.**



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

Ongoing Groups - Sundays & More

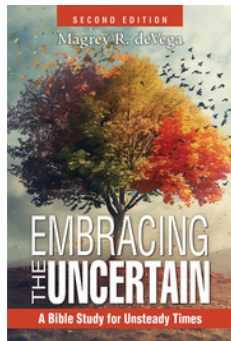
Cutting Edge

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
Beginning Magrey DeVega's *Embracing the Uncertain, 2nd Edition* in October. 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.

Sunday AM Encouragement Group

This Life Group for those dealing with the care of aging loved ones meets monthly. The next meeting is **October 18**, so email grow@stmarkscarmel.org if you would like to connect.

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:

- Thursday, October 15, 1:00-3:00 PM | Five Crowns games in The Living Room (Room N)
- Friday, October 23, trip to Conner Prairie for Harvest Festival. Meet at St. Mark's at 10:00AM to carpool.
- Sunday, November 15 - Event TBD off-site
- Sunday, December 6, 4:00-6:00 PM - Wind Symphony concert at St. Mark's

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.

How to Learn More & Sign Up for Groups



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

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

Open Groups

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Welcome back! Join us October 13 both at 9:30 AM and 7 PM. Carry-in refreshments will be in the Cafe Area and then we will meet in the Chapel. Interest Groups will meet. Hope you can be with us.



United
Women
in Faith

October Interest Groups!!!!

MORNING INTEREST GROUPS:

Cultural and Life Insights

October - "St. Mark's Guatemala Project" presented by Amy Adams.

Spiritual Growth Study - Pastor Karla Elliott

"Wesleyan Vile-tality: Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity" by Ashley Boggan

Bookworms - Gail Lee

October - "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt

EVENING INTEREST GROUPS

Helping Hands - Holly Moore

Book Markers - Debbie Skinner

October - "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi

If you don't have a chance to read the October book, come and enjoy the discussion.

MORNING AND EVENING INTEREST GROUPS

Helping Hands - AM: Steph Mabe PM: Holly Moore

Helping our missions and education departments with projects that need to be made or assembled for the church.

Pecan Sale Returns

It's time to go NUTS! Nibbles, our new pecan sale mascot, is here to remind you to turn in your pecan pre-orders by Oct. 18th. Forms available in the Narthex or church office. Halves and Pieces 10 oz. bags-\$15 Milk Chocolate, Dark Chocolate, Cinnamon Glazed, Pralines, and Chocolate Pecan Clusters 12 oz. bags-\$17 All proceeds go to Missions.

Arts and Crafts Marketplace Saturday, November 7 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm 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.

CALLING ALL BAKERS & CANDY MAKERS! Please consider donating your homemade baked goods or candies for the November 7th Arts & Crafts Marketplace bake sale table. Items can be left on the cart by the church office on Friday, November 6th from 9AM-noon and in Wesley Hall from 5 PM-7PM. Please label items and note if they contain nuts. Items should be individually wrapped or in small amounts (e.g. 6 pretzel rods, 6 cookies, etc.). Decoratively wrapped treats for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are especially appreciated. Thank you! 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.

October—Pastor Karla as she talks and answers questions on her past trip to Greece. Learn what it was like to walk and travel in the footsteps of the apostles (primarily Paul) and to see some of the fantastic Greek architecture. What is modern Greece like today? Should be a wonderful and informative time. Please join us, bring a friend or new member of St. Mark's.

Future programs:

- November—Amber Good of Teter Organic Farms
- December—TBD
- January 2027—Pastor Nathan Whybrew

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

October 20 Join us to discuss our current book selection. In October we will be discussing "Soundtrack of Silence: Love, Loss, and a Playlist for Life", a memoir by Matt Hay. 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

Mix of Wednesdays & Thursdays

Wednesday, October 14, 6:30-8:30

PM RSVP to Kathy Bartel by 5 pm Tuesday, October 13th at kbcrafting5@gmail.com. Contact Kathy for more information about the Craft & Hobby group.

SONG CIRCLE

Song Circle | 2nd Monday & 4th Fridays | October 12 & 23 | 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

2nd & 4th Thursdays | 6:30 PM

(Methodists on Bikes) All adults are invited to join this recreational bike riding group that rides 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.

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

Staff Parish Relations

Staffing Updates

St. Mark's is delighted to welcome **Caitlin Ptak** as our new **Marketing & Communications Coordinator!**



Caitlin grew up in Livermore, California, on the eastern edge of the San Francisco Bay Area. Her home congregation, Asbury United Methodist Church, shaped her early faith life — she took part in the Sierra Service Project, served in the nursery as a teenager, volunteered in the church's mini-bookstore during college, and stayed active on numerous teams and in volunteer roles through and just after graduate school.

Caitlin earned her bachelor's degree in English-Language Literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a master's degree in Literature, with concentrations in 20th Century American Literature and Composition/Rhetoric, from California State University, East Bay. She began her career in teaching, but soon sensed that path wasn't a long-term fit, and in early 2019 she stepped away from teaching, feeling called instead to serve within the church during that year's General Conference.

From there, Caitlin spent two years as Communications Coordinator at Lynnewood United Methodist Church in Pleasanton, California, before relocating to Carmel in the summer of 2021. She soon found her way to St. Mark's — first joining us virtually, then in person starting in the spring of 2023. This fall, she officially joined our staff as Marketing & Communications Coordinator.

Please join us in giving Caitlin a warm St. Mark's welcome!

We're happy to share that **Catherine Parisi** will be joining St. Mark's staff as our new **Youth Director** this October!

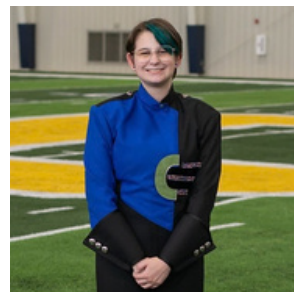


Many of you already know Catherine — she was baptized and grew up right here in our youth program, and she's thrilled to now help lead the next generation for St. Mark's. We are gaining not just a new staff member but a new volunteer too — her husband-to-be, Nathan Proft, will be joining her in ministry here as well.

Please join us in congratulating Catherine on her upcoming wedding and welcoming her into this new season of ministry with us. Specific transition plans are still being finalized, so stay tuned for more details in the weeks ahead.

Welcome Josie Robinson - High School Intern

Josie is hoping to do graphic design at Purdue, and continue to play bassoon in a college ensemble. She's in marching band (tenor sax), concert band, jazz band, pep band, orchestra and bassoon ensemble. She likes photography, volleyball, and spending time with friends and family. She's worked at Rita's for four years and is a shift manager. At St. Mark's, she loves helping with VBS, and when she was younger, she was in the kids choir and did puppet and drama camp. We are excited to have Josie on board to do graphics and photography this school year!



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.

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

Indoor “Trunk” or Treat Halloween Party

October 24 | 3:00-5:00 PM

Get into the spooky spirit! The whole family is invited to join us on October 24th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. for our indoor “trunk” or treat party in Wesley Hall! We’ll have trick-or-treating, games, jack-o-lantern decorating, and light snacks. Remember to wear a costume and bring a trick-or-treat bag! This is not a drop-off event. Interested in hosting a trick-or-treat table? Sign up by October 20th at stmarkscarmel.org/events.



The Pumpkin Patch is Here



The Pumpkin Patch is here! Thank you for everyone’s help making this such a successful event! Last year we raised \$7,455.00 and were able to help St. Mark’s Preschool buy new equipment, sent 8 high schoolers to Church Camp, supported over 30 youth at twice a month youth group and built camaraderie amongst the youth at multiple fellowship activities! Pumpkin delivery was September 18, and we need everyone’s help with selling now through October 30 to make this a fun and profitable fundraiser! Go to stmarkscarmel.org/events to find out more.

Arts & Crafts Marketplace



Saturday, November 7 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm 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.

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.



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

Congregational Care & Connections

GriefShare Grief Support Group



Wednesdays through November 11

1:00-2:30pm

Room N (The Living Room)

If you are grieving the loss of a family member or friend, you are welcome to join our new GriefShare support group. No matter how recent or long ago your loss was, grief is a painful and confusing journey. GriefShare is a safe, welcoming 13-week support group where you can be around people who truly understand the difficult emotions you are experiencing.

Each weekly session features a video with insights from respected counselors and personal stories of healing, followed by a supportive small-group discussion. You will use a workbook filled with practical tools to help you manage emotions like loneliness or anxiety, navigate changes in relationships, and move forward with hope. If you have lost a family member or friend, you are invited to join us.

Register for our current group on the Connection Tables or at <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/300124>. Feel free to invite a friend or family member to join the group with you. Have any questions? Contact Becky Bultemeier, Program Director, at bjbultemeier@yahoo.com. **The group began August 19 and can welcome new attendees throughout the 13-week session.**

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.

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.

New Member Class October 18



Sunday, October 18 | 1:00-3:45 PM | Room B/C

Are you interested in exploring membership at St. Mark's? Register today at stmarkscarmel.org/nextsteps for our next one-session, "fast track" new member class.

If October 18 doesn't work for you, note that on your form or email Jennifer Cloud-Buckner, Adult Discipleship & Connections Coordinator, at grow@stmarkscarmel.org so we can find an alternate date for another class.

At this class, you'll meet pastors and others investigating membership; learn more about what it looks like to welcome, grow, and serve at St. Mark's in a lifelong discipleship journey; and see our broader part in the history and mission of the United Methodist Church.

All Saints' Day Remembrance

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. Have you lost a loved one in the last year and would like their name included in this annual service? Submit your information to stmarkscarmel.org/events. Deadline to be included in the bulletin is Sunday, October 25.

Questions? Contact Melissa at msmith@stmarkscarmel.org.

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, 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!

Nursery Update



Have you seen the Nursery and Toddler areas lately? Both rooms have been recently updated with fresh coats of paint, new furniture, and beautiful artwork! Many thanks to everyone who donated time and money through hands-on projects and participating in preschool and church fundraisers. New flooring is coming next! Thank you for continuing to support building updates.

Pantry Food Donations

What a delightful evening we had at the Harvest Blessing UWFaith Kickoff on Tuesday. Thank you to Katy Rogers from Teter Farms who shared with us all the good works that are going on there. Many of us assume that hunger is not a concern in a county as prosperous as Hamilton County. Unfortunately, the reality is quite different. Rising grocery costs and increasing financial pressures have left many local families struggling to put food on the table. Food insecurity is a growing challenge, even in our own neighborhoods. Thank you for your non-perishable food donations to support those in need in our community. As we learned from Katy, there is so much more work to be done.



MIA Thank You



What an incredible volunteer weekend! We are so grateful for everyone who showed up, pitched in, and served with such generous hearts. From the early mornings to the long hours, your willingness to jump in and help made a tremendous difference to so many in our community and beyond.

This weekend was a beautiful reminder of what can happen when we come together as a church family with a spirit of love and service. Thank you for serving, caring, and being the hands and feet of Christ. We are blessed to have such an amazing congregation!



New Members



Welcome to our new members Mike Ptak, Caitlin Ptak, Julia Grimmer, and Gavin Dobson who joined on August 30! If you would like to explore membership at St. Mark's, email grow@stmarkscarmel.org or see details on page 22 about our next class on October 18.

Clothing Swap/Donation Success

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Back-to-School Clothing Swap! There were lots of clothes and shoes not taken that were donated to the Good Samaritan Network to be distributed locally to those impacted by the recent flood. Your generosity makes a difference!

Third Grade Bibles



Thanks to a generous donation from the United Women in Faith (UWF), our third graders were presented with new copies of a Deep Blue Kids Bible (CEB version). Jackie Rowell and Jen Cawthorne, Children's Ministry Directors, pointed out in worship that this is the age that children "move from learning to read to reading to learn." What an exciting time for us all to be reminded of the need for growth and curiosity in our faith—not only for our children, but also for ourselves!

AED (Automated External Defibrillators)



AED available at St. Mark's

Did you know that we have a two AEDs in our building? One is outside of Room G/H, across from the restrooms and water fountain. The other is in the Children's Wing/Preschool near the restrooms. St. Mark's and Preschool staff members updated their CPR and AED training in August.

Because You Give



- **Bags of Hope:** 30 no-sew fleece blankets
- **Brightwood Community Center:** \$5834.09; 60 boxes of food given out at food pantry, serving 160 individuals
- **Changing Footprints:** 20 bags of shoes
- **CUMC Food Pantry:** 12 bags of non-perishable food
- **HamCo Kids Coats:** 12 bags of coats & winter accessories
- **Midwest Mission Distribution Center:** 205 student kits
- **Servants at Work (SAWs):** 1 ramp built
- **Shepherd Community Center:** 45 breakfast meals served
- **Soup's On at Roberts Park UMC:** 500 personal hygiene kits
- **Travel-size toiletries:** 12 bags
- **Versiti Blood Center of IN:** 3 units of whole blood; 4 units of 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

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

stmarkscarmel.org

Jubilee Publication Note

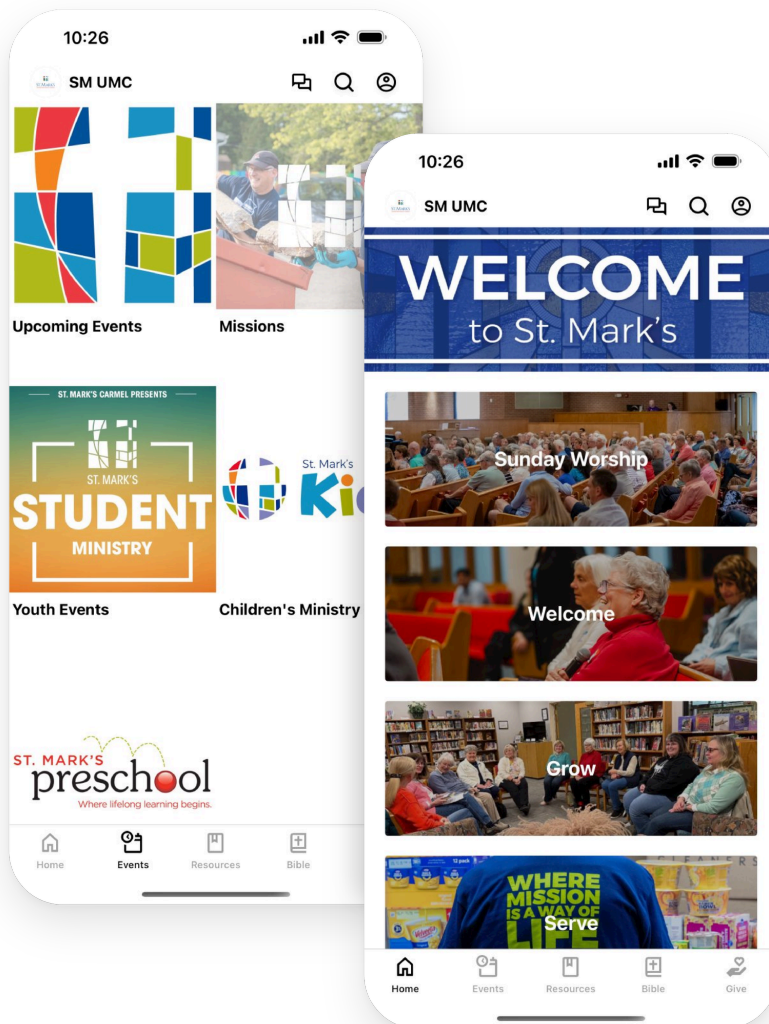
The Jubilee newsletter is published monthly, and all articles are due by the 15th of the previous month. To submit information for the Jubilee, complete the form at

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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