

JUBILEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2026



ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Mission In Action Weekend

September 19 - 20

Members of St. Mark's will mobilize the message of Christ's love, living out our motto, "where mission is a way of life." Learn more on page 6.

STMARKSCARMEL.ORG/MIA-DAY

Upcoming Events

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



Upcoming Events

- UWF Fall Kickoff
- Pumpkin Patch Returns
- Mission in Action Weekend
- Confirmation Begins

COMING SOON



- UWF Fall Kickoff - 8
- Brightwood Food Pantry - 8 & 9
- Chancel Choir & Bells Resume - 9
- Preschool Dine-to-Donate - 12
- Blood Drive - 13
- Youth Group - 13 & 27
- Pumpkins are coming - 18
- Potato Drop - 19
- Mission in Action - 20
- Family Promise Home Sweet Home Dinner & Silent Auction - 24
- Fletcher Place Breakfast - 25
- Red Bird Mission Trip - 27



- Pumpkin Patch Sales - All Month Long
- World Communion Day - 4
- Soup's On at Roberts Park UMC - 4
- Youth Group - 11 & 25
- Brightwood Food Pantry - 13 & 14
- Habitat Multifaith Build - 17
- Youth Paintball Adventure - 17
- New Member Class - 18

Pastor's Place

Greetings Everyone!

There is an amazing story in the Bible in which the people in the time of Nehemiah rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah chapter 3 describes the work and how it was accomplished. The following is a short section that gives an example of the rest of the chapter for reference.

Nehemiah 3:3-4

3 The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars. 4 Next to them Meremoth son of Uriah son of Hakkoz made repairs. Next to them Meshullam son of Berechiah son of Meshezabel made repairs. Next to them Zadok son of Baana made repairs.

People from different families made repairs side by side. They were lined up together and working for a common goal so that the entire city wall could be rebuilt and once again add security to the people. Reading this story reminded me a little of the modern-day assembly line where people work side by side for a common goal.

Speaking of assembly lines, did you know that on **September 18** we have an amazing opportunity to form our own assembly line and work toward a common goal? That's right! The pumpkins for our Pumpkin Patch are being delivered that day. If you have not participated before, the pumpkins come in a semi-trailer and we form a line to unload the trailer and place the pumpkins in the Patch. Last year proved to be hot, and hard work at times, but it was also an amazing time of fellowship, meeting new friends, and working to make the Pumpkin Patch a success.

I would encourage as many of you as possible to come and participate as we work side by side for the common goal of supporting our youth and children as we set up for this fundraiser. I hope to see you at the Patch on September 18.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Nathan



Rev. Nathan Whybrew
Lead Pastor

Flood Relief Information

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?

Flood Response Resources

To **VOLUNTEER** with clean up or to find a list of needed items to **DONATE**, visit Serve Village. www.servevillage.org



To make **FINANCIAL DONATIONS**, visit St. Mark's website. www.stmarkscarmel.org/give



To register for **EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING**, register online using the QR code





Sept. Mission Focus

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL HUNGER ACTION MONTH!

Over 70 million people in the U.S. today are food insecure. We throw away billions of pounds of good food each year. Formed in 1979, Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) brings people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors.

Partnering with faith groups, secular groups, schools, and individuals, SoSA sends willing volunteers to glean (pick, dig, or gather) fresh fruits and vegetables from fields and orchards. Sharing healthy and nourishing food with hungry people prevents food waste and spreads the abundance that we are provided.

Potatoes this year cost an average of \$0.92 per pound. Last year St. Mark's partnered with SoSA to provide and give away 40,000 pounds of potatoes at our annual Potato Drop. Please help us reach our fundraising goal of \$6000 to once again host this annual Potato Drop on September 19 and help feed families in and around central Indiana.

Learn more at stmarkscarmel.org/missions.

How can you help?

- Financial donations to SoSA may be made online at stmarkscarmel.org/give or by using the mission offering envelope in the blue attendance pads.
- Pick up a coin bank and Hunger Action Month Prayer calendar in the Gathering Area. Pray each day in September for those who are hungry. Drop loose change in your coin bank, then bring it to church on World Communion Sunday, October 4.
- Sign up to help at our annual Potato Drop on September 19 at stmarkscarmel.org/mia-day.
- Volunteer in the fields through gleaning opportunities here in Indiana at endhunger.org/serve.

Sept. In-Kind Donations

Apartment Shelter Program Housewares Drive

Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis is renting and furnishing apartments which are used as emergency homeless shelters for qualifying families. The Apartment Shelter Program allows families to stay together and have more stability until they can secure permanent housing.

Learn more about the Program at www.fpgi.org/asp.

During the month of September, St. Mark's will be having a Housewares Donation Drive for the Apartment Shelter Program. Your donation items may be dropped off at our donation bins inside door #2, Monday-Friday, 9-4.

Shop from our [Amazon wish list](#). Send to your home or directly to St. Mark's!

Apartment Shelter Needs:

- Laundry detergent
- Dryer sheets
- Measuring cups
- Trash bags
- Can openers
- Children's socks & underwear (all sizes)
- Children's Tylenol



Amazon Wishlist



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

Mark your calendar and join us for our annual churchwide event, Mission In Action! Members of St. Mark's will mobilize the message of Christ's love, living out our motto, "where mission is a way of life". Saturday fills our parking lot with a "Potato Drop", giving out 40,000 lbs. of potatoes. Sunday begins with a fellowship gathering in Wesley Hall. Then we will "worship in

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

Participating Mission Partners:

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

[stmarkscarmel.org/mia-day](https://www.stmarkscarmel.org/mia-day)



Fletcher Place Breakfast

September 25

HELP NEEDED

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](https://www.stmarkscarmel.org/missions).



St. Mark's Blood Drive

🩸 Save a Life — Donate Blood! 🩸

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

 Date: Sunday, September 13

 Time: 8:30am-12:30pm

 Location: Wesley Hall

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

✓ Quick • Safe • Life-Changing

🍪 Free snacks & drinks for donors!

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



Red Bird Mission Trip

September 27 – October 2, 2026

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

The work, enthusiasm and love shared during the work camp

experience has a profound effect on the lives of the participants, staff, and community. The cost is \$500 and will be due September 9. Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/missions. Questions?

Contact Amy Adams at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.

Brightwood Community Center Food Pantry

Volunteer at
Brightwood Food
Pantry!

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



We need volunteers like you to help:

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

📍 Location:

4062 E. 34th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46218

🕒 Date & Times:

2nd week of each month

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

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

Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/missions

📞 Contact: Diane Newton

✉ Email: joediane244@att.net

No experience necessary — just a desire to help.

Every hour you give helps someone in need. Be
the reason someone eats today. Volunteer with
us.

Bags of Hope Fleece Blankets



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

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

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



Misson Guatemala Trip

May 29 - June 5 , 2027

Join us on a mission trip to Mission Guatemala in San Andrés Semetebaj 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.

Family Promise - Home Sweet Home Dinner & Silent Auction

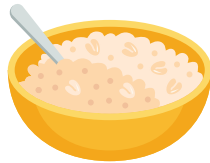
The annual Family Promise dinner and silent auction, Home Sweet Home, is on Thursday, September 24 at 502 East Event Center in Carmel. To purchase tickets to the event, please visit www.fpgi.org/home-sweet-home.



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.



Share the Bounty!

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



Community Food Relief

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



Travel-Size Hygiene Products Needed

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

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.

Soup's On at Roberts Park



Sunday, October 4

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).

Habitat for Humanity Multifaith Build



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

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

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.

September Kidz Monthly Mission

Stuffed Animal Drive for *Bags of Hope* Project

Each month, Children's Ministries invites kids to get involved in giving to the church's In-Kind Donations. During September, all children are invited to bring in **new** stuffed animals for Indiana Bags of Hope (we are not able to accept used stuffed animals). Bags of Hope is an annual orphan care project that provides Duffel bags to children in Foster Care. Often, these children store their personal belongings in a trash bag. It is the goal of Bags of Hope to replace these trash bags with Duffle bags embroidered with each child's name and filled with age-appropriate comfort items. All the "stuffedies" we collect will be used to help fill these bags. Please drop off your new stuffed animal donations in the bins at check-in for Kidz Church. Thank you for providing snuggly friends to those in need!



Mission in Action (MIA) Day

Sunday, September 20

How will your family participate in this annual day of serving? A variety of mission projects will be available both offsite in our community and onsite at St. Mark's!

The guidelines for child participation are:

- Children aged 4+ are encouraged to participate with their families!
- For parents/guardians participating onsite, childcare will be available in the church nursery for children aged 3 and under. Please register your child by September 15.
- Children in 5th grade or under must participate with an adult for BOTH On and Offsite projects.
- Children under the age of 18 may only participate in an OFFSITE project with a parent or guardian present. If you have a child under the age of 18, in at least 6th grade, they may participate in an ONSITE project WITHOUT you, however, you must have a permission form on file for your child.



Visit stmarkscarmel.org/mia-day for more details, sign-ups, childcare link, and all downloadable waivers and permission forms.

Third Grade Recognition Sunday

Sunday, September 13 | 9 & 11 AM Worship Services

Calling all 3rd grade parents! It's time to celebrate a special faith milestone in your child's life! On this annual day of celebration, all third graders will receive a blessing from the pastors and their very own CEB Bible. Bibles will be donated and presented by our United Women of Faith and include definitions, facts, and questions to help kids think about their faith. Families are invited to send a picture of their third grader for the worship service slide show to jrowell@stmarkscarmel.org by Wednesday, September 9.

Children Sing in Worship

Sunday, September 13 | 11 AM

All children of the church are invited to sing in worship at the beginning of The Current service. Rehearsals for these performances take place on Sunday mornings at 11 AM in the Kidz Music & Praise class.



Acolytes for Worship

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



Dine-to-Donate for St. Mark's Preschool



Quack Daddy Donuts

Saturday, September 12 | 6:30 AM to 3 PM

16156 Spring Mill Road Suite 500, Westfield

Have fun customizing your donuts by selecting from homemade icings and the topping of your choice! Mention ST. MARKS and 20% of proceeds will be donated to our school.

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 annual Preschool Pumpkin Party is always a blast with food and preschool/early elementary games and activities. This is a perfect time for church and preschool families to meet and get to know each other! Any church members/groups willing to help with event set-up can reach out to the Preschool Director, Jen Weixler, at preschool@stmarkscarmel.org. For ticket information, please visit stmarkscarmel.org/events.

Student Ministries

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

New High School Small Groups

Launching October 4!

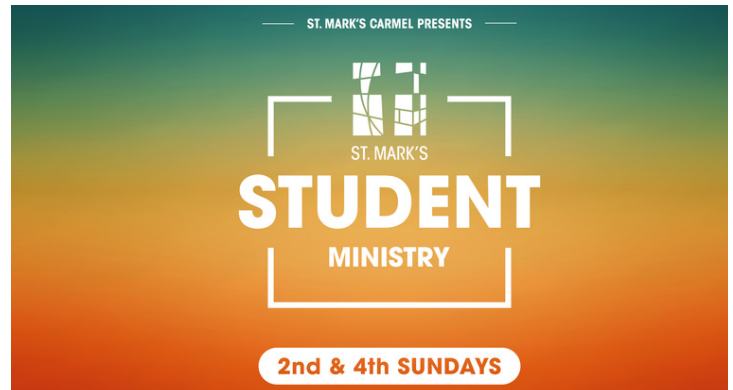
Attention all high school students and parents! We are excited to announce a brand-new rhythm for our High School Youth Ministry designed to help our teens build deeper friendships and grow in faith together.

Starting Sunday, October 4, we are officially launching High School Small Groups. These life-on-life groups will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

- Who: All students in grades 9-12
- Launch Date: Sunday, October 4
- The Monthly Rhythm: 1st & 3rd Sundays (Small Groups) | 2nd & 4th Sundays (Large Group)
- Time: 6-7:15 pm
- Where: St. Mark's Youth Rooms

Come out on October 4 to get plugged into your new small group! If you have any questions or want to volunteer as a leader, please contact the youth department at youth@stmarkscarmel.org.

Youth Group Kickoff



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!

Each week includes:

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

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

Education Hour

We will start in room M for announcements and an opening activity then break into Middle and High school age groups for more in-depth discussion and Bible study time.

What We're Teaching:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and started writing the most incredible story. It's not a story meant to be put away on a shelf somewhere, but it's one we're meant to explore and experience because we're deeply connected to it. God created a role for each of us to play. In this 4-week series from the Old and New Testaments, we'll take a look at the story of God as we learn more about our lives and our roles within it. We'll see that God is writing a good story, how sin isn't the end of the story, the way Jesus can rewrite our stories, and that we can be part of God's story.



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/ layers 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!

Pumpkin Patch



September 18 | 4:00 PM | Sign up to help!

The Pumpkin Patch is coming back to St. Mark's! 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 comradery amongst the youth at multiple fellowship activates! Set up of the patch and pumpkin delivery is September 18th. We need everyone's help with setting up and selling. It's going to be a fun and profitable fundraiser, but we need your help to make it a success!



Fall Studies & Groups

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

GriefShare Grief Support Group



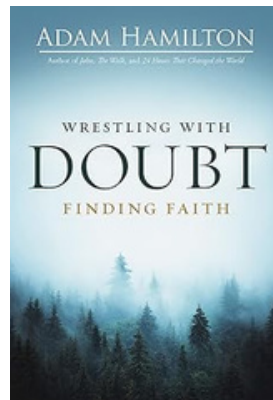
If you are grieving the loss of a family member or friend, you are welcome to join our new 13-week GriefShare support group that began August 19 and will run through November 11. New attendees can be welcomed throughout the 13 weeks. Learn more on page 22.

Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith

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

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

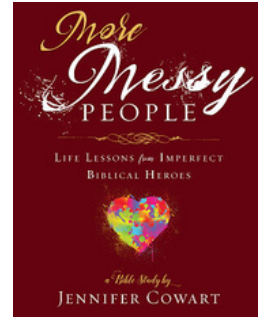
We might treat such questions as the enemy of faith, but uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God. In this book, pastor Adam Hamilton explores key questions of doubt with honesty and insight, drawing on the rich wisdom of the Bible, Christian tradition, and his experience walking with thousands of people on their spiritual journey. Wrestle with doubt and find a faith that is unafraid of hard questions and embraces mystery instead of simple answers. **Began August 28 and not meeting Sept 4, so join us Sept 11!**



MORE Messy People

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

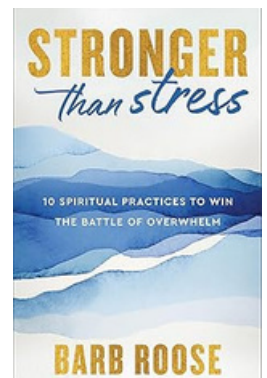
In this follow-up study, Jen Cowart looks at the messy, imperfect lives of even more biblical heroes—folks who made mistakes but who found that God could use them in powerful ways. We'll look at lives throughout the biblical narrative, including rival sisters (Leah and Rachel); sisters with very different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



Stronger Than Stress

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

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

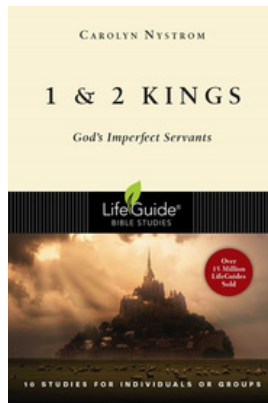


1 & 2 Kings: a LifeGuide Bible Study

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

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

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



Mere Christianity

Wednesday EVENINGS,
8/26-11/18 | no meetings
9/9 and 10/14. | Room N
(The Living Room) | Led
by Ken Steppe & Brian
Schmidt | Books \$11

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



How to Pay for Books

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

Online Payments:

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



How to Learn More & Sign Up for Groups

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

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



Ongoing Groups - Sundays & More

Cutting Edge

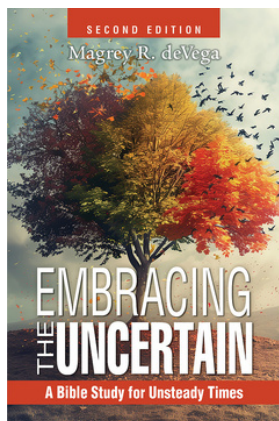
Sundays 10:00AM | Room G/H and Zoom upon request | No meeting 9/20 (MIA Day)

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 meetings 9/6 and 9/20

Wrapping up Matt Rawle's *Jesus Revealed* on Sept. 27, followed by *Embracing the Uncertain, 2nd Edition* by Magrey deVega 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.



LIFT

A Widows Encouragement Group

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

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

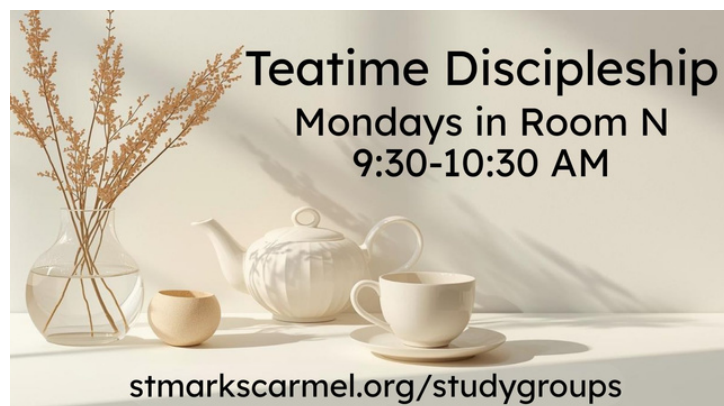
To connect with LIFT, email grow@stmarkscarmel.org or see Mary Etta Yoho.

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.

Teatime Discipleship



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

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

Sunday AM Encouragement Group

This Life Group for those dealing with the care of aging loved ones meets monthly. The next meeting is September 13, so email grow@stmarkscarmel.org if you would like to connect.

Open Groups

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United
Women
in Faith

UWF Fall Kickoff – September 8 at 6 PM Harvest Blessings: An Evening of Gratitude, Community, and Compassion

Join us for a special evening with Katy Rogers, Executive Director of Teter Organic Farm in Noblesville. Owned by Noblesville Methodist Church, Teter Farm grows organic produce, supports a community cooperative, and provides significant food donations to help address food insecurity throughout Hamilton County.

While Hamilton County is often viewed as affluent, many families struggle with rising grocery costs and food insecurity. Katy, a cancer survivor, inspiring leader, and engaging speaker, will share how this challenge affects our community and how Teter Farm is helping make a difference. Many at St. Mark's are already familiar with Teter through Confirmation retreats and other church events held on the farm's beautiful property.

Our Harvest Blessings theme will include an opportunity to serve. Please bring canned goods and other nonperishable food items to place on table centerpieces throughout the evening, creating a visible reminder of God's abundance. Following the event, all donations will be given to a local Hamilton County food pantry.

Come learn, be inspired, and help share God's blessings with neighbors in need.

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.

September 12, 2026 Breakfast at 7:30am in Wesley Hall & Program at 8:30am in Cornerstone

Our September Breakfast Meeting will feature Lisa Dick of the League of Women Voters. Learn what this valuable civic organization does and how its mission is so important to our voting system. For over a century this organization has been working to empower voters and defend democracy. The group is nonpartisan and nonprofit. The League is in every state and has over 800 chapters across the country. They engage in advocacy, education, litigation and organizing to protect our freedom to vote. This presentation, which begins at 8:30am in Cornerstone, will be open to all of St Mark's. All are welcome!

Future programs:

October—Pastor Karla and her trip to Greece

November—Amber Good of Teter Organic Farms

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

Fellowship & Interest Groups

Learn more at:
stmarkscarmel.org/groups

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

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.



MOB

Methodists on Bikes

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



PAGE TURNERS

Book Club Third Tuesdays at 7 PM September 15 at 7 PM



Join us on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss our current book selection. In September we will be discussing *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore. Meets in Room G/H.

JULIETS

Juliets will not meet until a new organizer is found. Juliets is in need of a group organizer! Interested? Contact the church office.

CRAFT GROUP

Mix of Wednesdays & Thursdays Wednesday, September 9, 6:30-8:30 PM

RSVP to Kathy Bartel by 5 pm Tuesday, September 8 at kbcrafting5@gmail.com. Contact Kathy for more information about the Craft & Hobby group.

SONG CIRCLE

**Song Circle | 2nd Monday & 4th Fridays | September 14 & 25
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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Select Fridays

Join us as we prayerfully knit and crochet prayer shawls that will be used to provide comfort and solace to people in need. Supplies are available. Men are welcome too! Contact Judy Bonnet, bonnetjm@icloud.com 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.

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.

Looking for a Juliet Leader!

Do you enjoy good food, great conversation, and connecting with other women? Our Juliets group—Just Us Ladies Into Eating Together—is in need of a new leader, and it's a wonderful, low-commitment way to serve and build community!

Juliets meets once a month at a local restaurant, offering a relaxed and welcoming space for women of all ages to gather, laugh, and share a meal together. The leader's role is simple: serve as the point of contact for RSVPs and make the monthly restaurant reservation. That's it!

If you love bringing people together and helping create a warm, friendly atmosphere, this could be a perfect fit. You'll help keep a meaningful connection point alive for women in our church and community.

Interested in learning more or stepping into this role? We'd love to hear from you—please reach out to the church office!

Committee News

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
(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!)*

Acolytes for Worship

We have begun having a few of our children 3rd grade and up serve as acolytes, lighting the Sanctuary candles before the beginning of either worship service. Is your



child or grandchild wanting to become more involved in our Sunday services and take on this meaningful role? Email Lori Roberts at lorigarvasroberts@gmail.com to learn more and to indicate your child's interest so she can coordinate with your schedule and the ushers. Your child will have the important responsibility of carrying the light of Christ into the sanctuary and lighting our altar candles before the beginning of either worship service.

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

Download your toolkit for getting things done.

[Committee Member Toolkit](#)

Check out this document for an overview of How To:

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

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

Community Outreach & Upcoming Events

Confirmation Begins

Confirmation is coming — and we hope your family will consider being part of it!

Students in **8th grade** and up are invited to join us for this year in exploring faith, asking real questions, building friendships, and discovering what it means to claim faith for themselves. Parents, this is a great opportunity to encourage your student to take that next step and be part of a meaningful experience with others their age. Learn more and register at stmarkscarmel.org/confirmation. Questions? Reach out to Pastor Karla at kelliott@stmarkscarmel.org.



Pumpkin Patch Returns



The Pumpkin Patch is coming back to St. Mark's! 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 comradery amongst the youth at multiple fellowship activates! Set up of the patch and pumpkin delivery is September 18th. We need everyone's help with setting up and selling. It's going to be a fun and profitable fundraiser, but we need your help to make it a success! Go to stmarkscarmel.org/events to find out more.

Join Choir and Bells



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

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,
August 19-November 11
1:00-2:30pm
Room N (The Living Room)**

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

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

Register for our 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.

Sympathies

Our sympathies are with the friends and families of Leslie Simich who lost her brother, Scott Vincent; and Jean Patton Gotshall who lost her husband, Ray Gotshall. Please keep these loved ones in your prayers.

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 Coming Soon



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.

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

Fall Kickoff & Connection Fair

Thank you for a great Fall Kickoff! We celebrated and commissioned discipleship and education leaders, launched the new season of groups and programming, and reflected on our intergenerational growth from our Growing Young training grant.



Our families enjoyed having interactive activities and booths for kids at the Connection Fair, and people began connecting with groups and missions for the fall. Pastors Karla and Nathan wrapped up the Songs of Summer sermon series with an in-depth look at Psalm 104 and some more context on the song "What a Wonderful World," a great reminder of finding joy and purpose even in the toughest times. If you missed the fair, email grow@stmarkscarmel.org or spend some time on our website and app to find your place to connect, and go to stmarkscarmel.org/growingyoung to fill out the 2026 follow-up survey mentioned in worship. (See details on page 20).



Trinkets & Treasures



We have always said that it takes a village to put on this event. This is never more evident than this year. Faced with the unknown of what a change in dates would do, the congregation came together to make this a successful fundraising event. A big thank you to the devoted ladies of UWF who came day after day to sort through all your lovely donations, price and stage the garage Sale. Special thanks to Beccie Galloway and Cathy Wilkinson the book nook beauties plus Jackie Mock and Connie Southard the jewelry queens. A shout out of thanks to UMM and Scouting America Troop #120 who helped set up and clean up. Thanks to all who stepped up and filled up their vehicles to haul the leftovers away when Home Depot cancelled our box truck reservation just before pickup. We will have surpassed last year's total. We made over \$7,000. Definitely a successful event.

Your T&T Chairs (The Three Amigos) Peggy-Anne Hoy, Steff Mabe & Roz Sunderland

Because You Give



- **Bags of Hope:** 7 no-sew fleece blankets
- **Brightwood Community Center:** 48 boxes of food given out at food pantry, serving 248 individuals
- **CUMC Food Pantry:** 8 bags of non-perishable food
- **Fishers Youth Assistance Program:** 20 backpacks; 42 pks crayons, markers, colored pencils; 143 notebooks; 162 glue sticks; 524 pencils, sharpeners, erasers; 85 post-it notes; 99 dry erase markers
- **Fletcher Place Community Center:** 120 hot meals served; 486 packets of oatmeal
- **Grassroot Projects:** 144 pair of kids socks; 240 kids underwear
- **Red Bird Mission:** \$7301.40
- Travel-size toiletries: 9 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

stmarkscarmel.org

Jubilee Publication Note

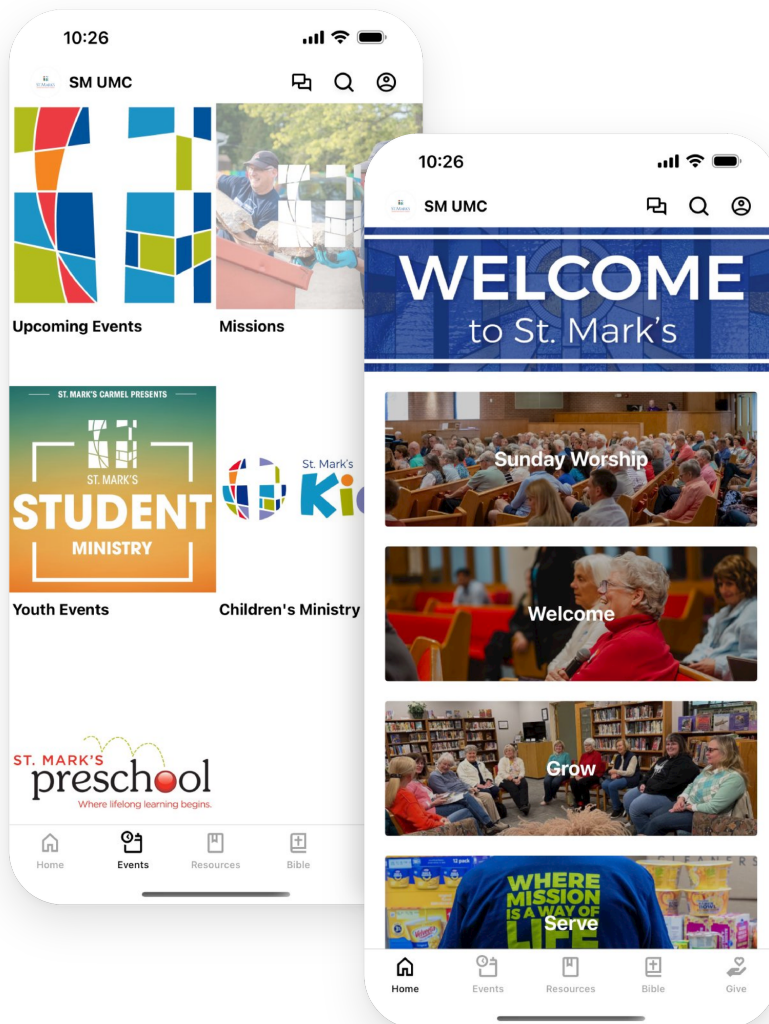
The Jubilee newsletter is published monthly, and all articles are due by the 15th of the previous month. To submit information for the Jubilee, complete the form at

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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