



ST. MARKS

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MISSION:

**Our mission is to
Make followers of Jesus who
Love God,
Love others
And change the world**

VISION:

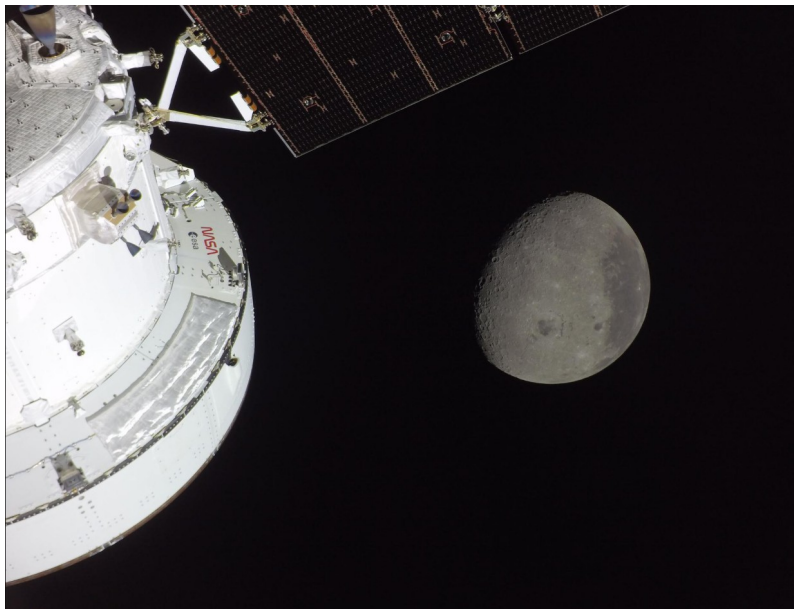
**Reaching and nurturing those
Who don't know Jesus.**



April 2026

Dear Church Family,

I don't know about you, but I have been captivated over the past couple of weeks by the Artemis II mission. For the first time in 50 years, humans have left earth's gravitational pull and orbited the moon. I've always been fascinated by outer space, and while some find the vastness and grandness of the universe, and our relative smallness, to be cause to question the existence of God, I find the opposite to be true. For me, the grandness of the universe draws me into worship. Isaiah 40:26 says: *"Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing."*



The Orion spacecraft is seen in the foreground lit up by the sun. A waxing gibbous Moon is visible in the background.

That the universe would be as grand as it is, and that its creator would still see us and love us and care for us, is incredibly humbling. That the same God who made the stars would take on flesh and come to walk with us and ultimately die for us is beyond our comprehension.

These same thoughts seem to be echoed by Artemis astronaut Victor Glover, who said this from space on Easter Sunday: "When I read the Bible and I look at all of the amazing things that were done for us who were created — you have this amazing place, this spaceship," he said. "You guys are talking to us because we're in a spaceship really far from Earth, but you're on a spaceship called Earth that was created to give us a place to live in the universe." He added, "Maybe the distance we are from you makes you think what we're doing is special, but we're the same distance from you. And I'm trying to tell you — just trust me — you are special."

And that's exactly how God sees us: you are special to him. Created in His image, on a little spaceship in our universe called the planet earth where God has placed us and come to tell us how much he loves us, and called us to love one another. As Glover prepared to go out of radio contact with the earth, seeing wondrous sights that only a small handful of humans had ever experienced out in the reaches of space, he said this: "As we get close to the nearest point to the moon and farthest point from Earth, as we continue to unlock the mysteries of the cosmos, I would like to remind you of one of the most important mysteries there on Earth, and that's love. Christ said, in response to what was the greatest command, that it was to love God with all you are," said Glover. "And he also, being a great teacher, said the second is equal to it. And that is to love your neighbor as yourself. As we prepare to go out of radio communication, we're still able to feel your true love from Earth. And to all of you down there on Earth and around Earth, we love you from the moon."

May we never fail to be in awe and wonder of the God of the cosmos, who loves us to the moon and beyond.

Blessings,

Pastor Dan

Pastor Dan's new podcast.



Sermon Prep is a new podcast created by Pastor Dan Metzger.

The easiest place to find it is at stmarksfindlay.org, WATCH, PODCAST

New episodes are released each Friday.

Pastor Dan shares insights and materials he's been gathering as he prepares for the upcoming Sunday sermon. As he humorously notes, if he included everything he's found interesting the sermon would be far too long!

What critics are saying:

"I never listened to a podcast before."

"I enjoy Pastor Dan's positivity."

"I wasn't getting enough of him on Sunday mornings. Thanks, Pastor."

Matthew 25: 35-36



**Super
Service
Saturday**

May 16, 2026

The date has been set, but now we need your help with suggestions for getting us all out of the church and volunteering in and around Findlay.

Send your suggestions to Pastor Dan or just write it down on the back of a Connect Card.

In a couple of weeks, look for sign-ups on the St Marks website.



Mission Trip

June 20-25, 2026



Register @ stmarksfindlay.org/events

Pittsburgh, PA

The deadline to register for the trip is April 1st!

St. Marks is sending 16 youth and leaders to Pittsburgh, PA June 20-25. This mission trip will allow our youth to partner with several United Methodist churches in the greater Pittsburgh area and serve alongside their pastors, our mission partners and their congregations to support and further a variety of ministries. From Vacation Bible School to food distribution, clothing distribution and homeless ministries - our youth will be given a chance to grow their faith and further God's kingdom serving with the local church this summer.

If you would like to support their trip, you can donate by specifying your donation is for the "youth trip funds." Any and all donations are appreciated!

Another way to donate is for all you pizza lovers! The youth will be selling Domino's pizza BOGO cards for \$20 which gets you a free large pizza when you buy one on any orders through Dec 31. Cards are only for sale April 12-26 so grab one today! Cards can be purchased in person from youth at church or online: <https://store.dominos.cards/53738>

Thank you for your prayers and support of our youth!

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

AT ST. MARKS CHURCH

The Discipleship Pathway is fluid because a person's relationship with Jesus isn't going to be perfectly linear. The path below is the pattern we most often see people living out their faith journey at St. Marks Church.



EXPLORING	GROWING	MATURING
<p>Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attends worship 1-2 times per month• Exploring ways to connect with others at St. Marks <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend Starting Point• Make a decision to follow Jesus• Get baptized• Become a member of St. Marks	<p>Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attends worship 3-4 times per month• Prays multiple times per week• Serves at church occasionally• Gives their time & resources regularly• Is in a Small Group, studying Scripture with other followers of Jesus <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in the Faith 5• Join a Small Group• Join a Serving Team	<p>Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attends worship almost every Sunday• Prayer is a daily habit• Serves the church & community often• Gives sacrificially• Is in a Small Group, studying Scripture with other followers of Jesus <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invite someone to worship with you• Share your faith & knowledge of Jesus with others

Ready to take your next step in your walk with Jesus?

At St. Marks, we believe following Jesus is a lifelong journey - and no matter where you are, there's a next step for you. Our **Discipleship Pathway** helps you see where you are spiritually and discover meaningful ways to grow. It's not a rigid checklist, but a **fluid pathway** because we know faith doesn't always move in a straight line. After you read through the pathway, please let Mandy Stevens (Director of Discipleship) or Pastor Dan know if we can help you with your next step!

St Marks Sermon Schedule

I Quit

April 12

Making Excuses

Luke 14:15-24

April 19

Complaining

Philippians 2:14-18

April 26

Living in Fear

Philippians 3:13-14

May 3

Comparing

Philippians 4:11-13

Oh the Places You're Sent

May 10

You'll Go to Your City!

Acts 1:4-9

May 17

You'll Go to Your People!

Mark 1:14-15

The 2026 St Marks

Leadership Team

**Meetings are the fourth Tuesday
of the month, 7:00 p.m.**

Rev. Dan Metzger

Leadership Team Chair – Laura Rhodes

SPRC – Kaitlin Peraino

SPRC - Val Milum

Trustee Team – Matt Fix

Trustee Team – Mike Lee

Trustee Team – Joe Stoner

Trustee Team – Don Snyder

Finance Team – Jeremy Theiss

Finance Team – Becky Iten

Member - Dylan Burkholder

Member – Denise Claflin

Member – Lyndsay Hite

At-large Member Endowment Fund
Committee—Scott Rhodes

Lay Member to Annual Conference
– Erma Metzger

Faith 5

Thoughtfully created for you every week by Mandy Stevens, the Faith 5 is a simple habit that you can adopt while eating breakfast or dinner or before bed.

Have faith and feel your relationship with God grow.

American Red Cross Blood Drive at St Marks

May 21, July 23, and Sept 17

Blood drives take place in the DOCK from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**There is an urgent shortage. I
f you are able, please sign up to donate.**

Go to redcrossblood.org to register.



Our Library

Christian Reading Chosen by our Spiritual Leaders

Library Hours: Sunday morning & Monday-Thursday 8AM—4PM

- Explore what makes these Christian authors so widely read and influential.
- Find a book that is on the UWF Reading List.
- Or take home a puzzle!



Putting together puzzles offers significant mental, emotional, and physical benefits, acting as a complete brain workout that improves cognitive functions like memory, spatial reasoning, and problem-solving. Engaging in this activity reduces stress, boosts dopamine levels for a better mood, and enhances fine motor skills.

- Read a book recommended by Pastor Dan.
- Bring your children in to find a book specifically chosen for youth and your little ones.



- Grow your Faith.
- Find a book chosen to help you with a concern.
- It's a quiet and comfortable space to relax with The Good Book or a good book. 😊





GRADUATION SUNDAY
Will be celebrated on
May 24, 2026



We will be honoring our high school and college graduates. If you have a student graduating from high school or college, please let Holly Metzger know (hmetzger@stmarksfindlay.org) so we can be sure to recognize your graduate.



United Women in Faith

Thank You!



Over Easter weekend the hundreds of seed packets collected here in St Marks were delivered to the Jackson Area Ministries (JAM).

JAM is an official ministry of the United Methodist Church and their idea was to teach people to garden. A garden can provide more food and a better variety of healthy food to people who need to feed their hungry families. Thank you for your donations.

ST. MARKS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2026 FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF 03/31/2026

1. 2026 ACTUAL GENERAL GIVING VERSUS 2026 GENERAL ACTUAL EXPENSES

	Year To Date <u>3/31/2026</u>
Actual General Giving Received through 03/31/2026	\$160,396
Actual General Expenses Paid through 03/31/2026	<u>(\$126,141)</u>
Subtotal YTD Actual General Giving More Than Actual General Expenses Paid through 03/31/2026	\$34,255
NOTE: In Order to Meet Our 2026 100% Apportionments Commitment, St. Marks UMC Needs to Pay \$50,716 by 12/31/2026.	<u>(\$6,000)</u>
YTD Actual General Giving More than Actual General Expenses Paid through 03/31/2026	<u>\$28,255</u>

Total 2026 General Operating Budget is \$634,500. \$12,202 is needed weekly to cover operating expenses.

The average weekly General giving through 03/31/2026 was \$12,338. This was over by \$136 as of 03/31/2026.

*** Total 2026 West Ohio Conference & Maumee River District Apportionments Commitments at 100% is \$61,716. We have paid 18% of the \$61,716 towards our West Ohio Conference & Maumee River District Apportionments (\$6,000 from General Fund & \$5,000 from Missions Fund), so our unpaid Apportionments balance as of 03/31/2026 is \$50,716.**

2. 2026 ACTUAL MISSION GIVING VERSUS 2026 MISSION BUDGET NEEDS

	Year To Date <u>3/31/2026</u>
Actual Mission Giving Received through 03/31/2026	\$6,682
Mission Giving Required for 2026 Mission Budget Needs through 03/31/2026	<u>\$7,000</u>
YTD Actual Mission Giving Less Than 2026 Mission Budget Needs	<u>(\$318)</u>

Total 2026 Mission Budget is \$28,000. \$538 is needed weekly and \$7,000 is needed per quarter.

Payments: Q1 \$5,000. Total Paid Year to Date: \$5,000.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

SINGSPiRATION

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 3:00 P.M.



Join us for a hymn sing for all ages! We'll have some pre-chosen hymns, kid-friendly songs, and some time for you to request your favorite hymns, too! Plus, we'll have an area for kids to dance, sing, and play some instruments so they can join in on the fun. After the hymn sing in the sanctuary, we'll have cookies & punch in Fellowship Hall. Contact Mandy Stevens – mstevens@stmarksfindlay.org – for more information!

Eagle Scout Project - Henry Iten

- Buy a paver for \$25, 5 for \$100
- Buy a Bench for 200\$
- Buy a plant for \$50

*all are just for donation purposes if you have any special requests reach out individually.

\$1,590 Current

Contact via email or number:
henryiten12@icloud.com
419-379-8977

Thank You so much for all who have donated! I am so excited to start this project. Current date for operation is April 25th!



venmo

Cherry Street Community Garden

is an outreach program run by
Howard UMC.

They are looking for volunteers to help plant, weed, water or donate any excess produce they may have from their own gardens.

If interested, call Tina and she will give you contact information.



Give-a-Crock is a St Marks Ministry committed to helping to feed people in need. They provide a crock pot and recipes in the hopes of teaching a cost-effective way of providing a family a hardy and healthy meal. Once a month, Give a Crock gives 27 families a grocery bag full of the ingredients to make a delicious crock of food. Donations are an important way this ministry keeps going. A donation box is in the lobby. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from this, please talk to one of the staff or to Tina Miller.



The recipe for April is **Crockpot Ranch Chicken with Veggies**

Donations are needed by March 19.

Items needed are: 1 oz pkgs of powdered ranch seasoning, 10.5 oz cans of cream of chicken soup and cans of mixed vegetables.



April donation requests for the big black barrel

**Canned: corn
mixed vegetables
Green beans**

**Peas
Baked beans
Kidney beans**

**ST ANDREWS
FREE LAUNDRY
NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

Laundry supplies are provided for patrons to do their own laundry.

<p>TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 9 AM - 3 PM</p>	<p>THERE IS AN EMPLOYEE ON-SITE AT ALL TIMES</p>
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Volunteers are needed to just be a friendly face, someone to talk with, to admire their children, and to listen.

St Marks UMC is

**MOVING
THE NEEDLE**



Habitat for Humanity®
Findlay/Hancock County

ReStore®

Donate • Shop • Volunteer • Open to the Public

Transformations Thrift Store is open and operating!!

Thanks to the community support, the thrift store has been able to be open Monday—Thursday 9-5, Friday 9-6, and Saturday 9-2.

Donations are accepted Monday—Friday between 1-4 PM.

The store is located at 330 Walnut Street, Findlay.