



ST. MARKS

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MISSION:

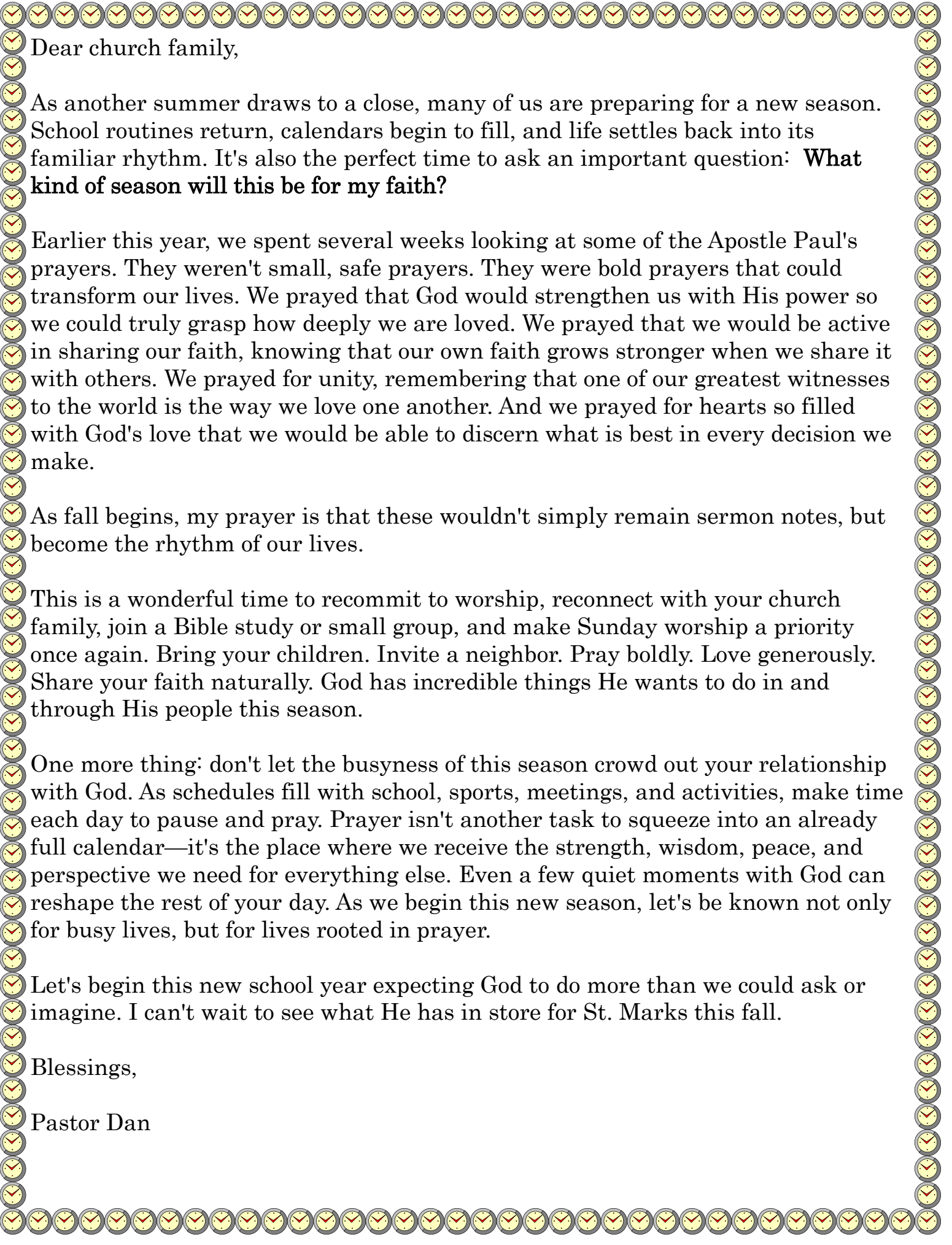
**Our mission is to
Make followers of Jesus who
Love God,
Love others
And change the world**

VISION:

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



August 2026



Dear church family,

As another summer draws to a close, many of us are preparing for a new season. School routines return, calendars begin to fill, and life settles back into its familiar rhythm. It's also the perfect time to ask an important question: **What kind of season will this be for my faith?**

Earlier this year, we spent several weeks looking at some of the Apostle Paul's prayers. They weren't small, safe prayers. They were bold prayers that could transform our lives. We prayed that God would strengthen us with His power so we could truly grasp how deeply we are loved. We prayed that we would be active in sharing our faith, knowing that our own faith grows stronger when we share it with others. We prayed for unity, remembering that one of our greatest witnesses to the world is the way we love one another. And we prayed for hearts so filled with God's love that we would be able to discern what is best in every decision we make.

As fall begins, my prayer is that these wouldn't simply remain sermon notes, but become the rhythm of our lives.

This is a wonderful time to recommit to worship, reconnect with your church family, join a Bible study or small group, and make Sunday worship a priority once again. Bring your children. Invite a neighbor. Pray boldly. Love generously. Share your faith naturally. God has incredible things He wants to do in and through His people this season.

One more thing: don't let the busyness of this season crowd out your relationship with God. As schedules fill with school, sports, meetings, and activities, make time each day to pause and pray. Prayer isn't another task to squeeze into an already full calendar—it's the place where we receive the strength, wisdom, peace, and perspective we need for everything else. Even a few quiet moments with God can reshape the rest of your day. As we begin this new season, let's be known not only for busy lives, but for lives rooted in prayer.

Let's begin this new school year expecting God to do more than we could ask or imagine. I can't wait to see what He has in store for St. Marks this fall.

Blessings,

Pastor Dan

Back to School Bash

Sunday, Aug 9

2-4 PM

Save the date for

Back to School Bash!

On Sunday, August 9th the front lawn will be transformed with bounce houses, slides, music, and more!

Invite your friends and neighbors - the more, the merrier!

If you'd be willing to help out the day of the event, please email Curynn.



August donation
requests for the big
black barrel

Egg Noodles
Bowtie Pasta
Elbow Pasta

Rotini Pasta
Parmesan Cheese



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.

Pastor Dan's podcast.



Sermop Prep is a podcast
created by Pastor Dan Metzger.

It's a 20 minute conversation between Dan
and some of our favorite people here at
St Marks: Mandy Stevens, Kellie Bibler,
Bruce Beck and of course Holly Metzger.

He has a great episode listening to the
teens who had just returned from their
mission trip to Pittsburgh.

The easiest place to find it is at [stmarks-
findlay.org](http://stmarks-findlay.org), WATCH, PODCAST

New episodes are released each Friday.

Pizza with the Pastor (Membership Class)

Would you like to learn more
about becoming a member of
St. Marks Church? We would
love to have you join us for our
Pizza with the Pastor
membership class on Sunday,
August 16 from 12:00-1:30.

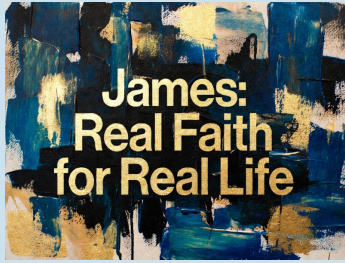
During Pizza with the Pastor,
Pastor Dan and some of the St.
Marks staff will share about the
church, what we believe, and
what it means to be a member.
Lunch and childcare will be
provided.

There is no requirement to join
the church after attending Pizza
with the Pastor – so feel free to
sign up just to get more info!

Please let Mandy Stevens or
Pastor Dan know if you would
like to attend.



St Marks Sermon Schedule



August 9

Trials, Temptation and Testing

James 1:2-4, 12-15

August 16

The Power of Our Words

James 1:19-20, 26, 3:8-10

August 23

Even the Demons Believe— and Shudder

James 2:14-19, 26

August 30

Pride and Partiality

James 2:1-4, 6, 9, 4:6

September 6

The Power of Praying for One Another

James 5:13-16

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 Sept 17 and November 12

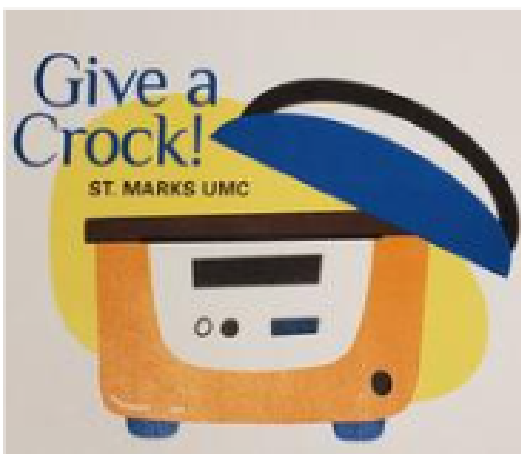
Blood drives take place in the DOCK from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

There is an urgent shortage.

If you are able, please sign up to donate.

Go to redcrossblood.org to register.





August's Give a Crock meal is Paula Deen's Crockpot Potato Soup. There are quite a few perishable ingredients needed for this recipe - if you'd like to donate \$5 or \$10 to help cover the cost of those, please write "Give a Crock" on an offering envelope and we will make sure it gets to the right place. If you would like to donate any of the following non-perishable ingredients, please drop them off at the church no later than August 23.

32 oz cartons of chicken broth, Cans of cream of chicken soup
Bay leaves, 2.5 oz packages of bacon bits

Fill the little free pantries



AUGUST ITEMS

- Canned or dry powder milk
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Granola Bars
- Pudding Cups
- Heat and Eat soups like chicken noodle or vegetable

Items collected August 2nd - 16th

**Please place in bin marked
little free pantry donations**

Tackling Food Insecurity in Our Community.



St Marks UMC ,
Howard UMC



**MOVING
THE NEEDLE
& Zion UMC**

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.

Help will be needed at the give-a-way table, Wednesdays between July 22 and September 30.

The produce will be available from 11-1 or until we run out.

Once again this year, thanks to Zion UMC free lunches will also be passed out on the same days/same time.



St Marks UMC Making a Difference 2026



St. Mark's is part of a group of 14 churches participating in this year's Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build.

Their goal is to build 3 homes this fall for local families.

St. Mark's will be helping to side a home on August 25th and then come back and help with Landscaping on October 6th.

In addition, we are raising money to help with the building costs. Our goal is to raise \$8000.00. Our VBS kiddos already got us started by raising over \$400.00. Prayerfully consider donating to this project, which helps us move the needle in our community by meeting a need for affordable housing. We will be tracking our progress so you can see how your donations are making a difference by adding "siding" to a house frame. When the house is all sided, we will have met our goal. Please make sure you earmark your donations for Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build.

Scott Rhodes is our St. Mark's Point person. He is also a Habitat for Humanity Board Member. He can answer any questions that you might have.

If you'd like to volunteer to help, please reach out to Pastor Dan, Scott Rhodes or Kellie Bibler.

dmetzger@stmarksfindlay.org or kbibler@stmarksfindlay.org or
srhodes@natlime.com

THANK YOU

We believe
love in action
can change
the world.

THANK YOU



We were so proud to deliver the following supplies to the Hancock County Women's Resource Center: 28 packs of diapers and pull-ups, 51 packs of baby wipes, 33 shampoo/conditioner/baby wash, 10 packs of feminine hygiene products, 3 canisters of formula, 2 cribs with mattresses and bedding, a 3in1 stroller and a Pack-n-Play. There are monetary donations as well. While there, we got a tour of the newly renovated house behind the facility that provides a safe, warm, friendly place for supervised family visitations.

What does the Women's Resource Center do? They support FAMILIES.

This is from their Facebook page, "Thanks to God's faithfulness and the generosity of our community, we've expanded our services in powerful ways. The original WRC facility has been transformed into a pregnancy medical clinic, and the newly renovated Generations House is home to our growing fatherhood program, administrative offices, and supervised visitations. The new space and services have allowed us to enhance the mission God has entrusted to us. These additions will allow us to offer even more support through medical services, post-abortion recovery, supervised visitations, and parenting programs."



The next 13 week session of GriefShare begins
Wednesday, August 19—November 11, 2026.

The class is offered at 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM.

The content is the same both times, so choose the one that works best for you.

No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful, confusing process.

At this 13 week support group program, you'll learn what to expect
in the days ahead and what's "normal" with grief.

The class is nondenominational and open to any adult grieving the loss
of a family member or friend.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone
who may benefit from the class. Class members do not need to be St Marks
members. This is a unique outreach program offered by St Marks.

Register or get more information by calling the
church office at 419-422-4236



Have you ever found yourself in a situation where someone is asking for help and you just don't know what to say? We often get calls at the church from people looking for food or shelter and I'm so happy to be able to respond with a helpful suggestion. "You can use the internet to go to HancockHelps.org It is a one-stop website with connections to all of the resources available in Hancock County." If you, gentle reader, have a minute, you should check it out, too.

St Marks is delighted to announce the hiring of a Business Manager.
A man many of you already know: Don Snyder



Just a little bit about Don

My wife, Diane, and I have one daughter, Danielle, who is married and lives in Findlay. I've attended St. Marks for over 30 years and have been a member of several committees. I have also taught Sunday school, assisted with youth programs and went on several mission trips.

I'm originally from Delphos, OH, but grew up closer to Van Wert. A job with Marathon brought me to Findlay nearly 40 years ago. While at Marathon, I held a variety of Finance and Accounting positions. After retiring in early 2025, I've concentrated on volunteering with organizations such as Kiwanis, Habitat for Humanity, Welcome to a New Life, Master Gardeners and UMCOR's Early Response Team.

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.

Help will be needed at the give-a-way table, Wednesdays between July 22 and September 30.

The produce will be available from 11-1 or until we run out.

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READY TO TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP?

We all have a next step to take in our walk with Jesus.

What's yours?

Maybe your next step is to GO... to live your faith.

Here are some ideas:

- Care for St. Marks children + their families by being a:

- Backstage Kids Leader
- Nursery Volunteer
- Spark Kids Assistant
- Back to School Bash Volunteer

We have immediate needs
for Children's Ministry
Volunteers!
Contact Curynn for more
info:
cdewitt@stmarksfindlay.org

- Help people feel welcome at St. Marks by:

- Bringing treats for Sunday mornings
- Signing up to set up treats at second service
- Serving as a Greeter, Usher, or Communion Server

- Help others at St. Marks worship by:

- Singing in the choir
- Singing in the praise band
- Playing an instrument in the praise band

- Support worship behind the scenes by:

- Operating the sound board
- Operating the multimedia livestream
- Operating the video camera
- Operating the lighting board
- Programming the multimedia livestream

We have immediate needs
for behind the scenes
worship volunteers!
Contact Bruce for more info:
brucevonbeck@gmail.com

READY TO TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP?

**We all have a next step to take in our walk with Jesus.
What's yours?**

Maybe your next step is to GATHER... to find your people.

Here are some ideas:

- *Attend worship regularly*
- *Meet someone new before or after church*
- *Sit with someone you don't know at church*
- *Stay after the service or come early for coffee & conversation*
- *Attend a fellowship event*
- *Attend Pizza with the Pastor*

Maybe your next step is to GROW... to deepen your faith.

Here are some ideas:

- *Practice the Faith 5 daily*
- *Listen to the weekly worship playlist found on the Grow tab of the website*
- *Listen to the Sermon Prep Podcast*
- *Borrow (and read! 😊) a book from the church library*
- *Join a Bible Study*
- *Join a Sunday School Class or Small Group*
- *Join United Women in Faith*
- *Attend GriefShare*

READY TO TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP?

We all have a next step to take in our walk with Jesus.

What's yours?

Maybe your next step is to GO... to live your faith.

Here are some ideas:

- Love our community & move the needle in food insecurity, mental health, child care + more by:
 - Donating food for Give-a-Crock (or volunteering to be on the assembly + drop-off team!)
 - Donating food for City Mission or the Little Free Pantries
 - Donating fresh produce from your garden to families through Cherry Street Community Garden
 - Donating blood at one of the American Red Cross Blood Drives at St. Marks
 - Volunteering at Back-to-School Bash
 - Volunteering at our annual Live Nativity

Not sure where to start?

***We'd love to help you find your next step. Contact Mandy Stevens,
Director of Discipleship - mstevens@stmarksfindlay.org.***

Financial Update: June 2026

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." — 2 Corinthians 9:7

Our ministries rely entirely on your faithful generosity. Here is a brief look at our financial health through the end of last month:

Category	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Tithes & Offerings	\$ 346,067	\$ 317,252
Ministry Operating Expenses	\$ (265,119)	\$ (286,394)
Apportionments Paid	<u>\$ (14,716)</u>	<u>\$ (30,858)</u>
General Net Financial Position	\$ 66,232	\$ -
Mission Giving	\$ 15,908	\$ 13,998
Apportionments Paid	<u>\$ (5,000)</u>	<u>\$ (13,998)</u>
Missions Net Financial Position	\$ 10,908	\$ -

Apportionments Paid: We have paid 32% of our conference apportionment payments totaling \$19,716. This is \$14,716 from the General fund and \$5,000 from Missions. Our full year apportionment commitment is \$61,716.

Note from the Finance Committee: Thank you for your incredible stewardship! Meeting our financial goals allows our church to focus entirely on what matters most: growing our discipleship, expanding our local outreach, and maintaining our church. Thank you for your continued dedication and faith.



St. Marks United Methodist Church

800 South Main Street

Findlay, Ohio 45840

St. Marks United Methodist Church

Phone: 419-422-4236

stmarksfindlay.org

Church office hours: Mon—Thurs, 9am—3pm

All at St. Marks who follow Jesus:

Rev. Dan Metzger, Senior Pastor

Kathy Newell Choir Director

Caitlin Parke, Director of Contemporary Worship

Curynn DeWitt, Director of Children's & Family Ministry

Holly Metzger—Youth Director

Mandy Stevens—Director of Discipleship

Kellie Bibler—Director of Outreach

