



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.**



February 2026

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to congratulate you on being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community! Earlier this month, St Marks was recognized by the West Ohio Conference for the ways we've been "Moving the Needle" in our community. I want to share some of what was said at the presentation:



The Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer Award for Social Transformation and Justice honors a church or ministry that embodies Bishop Palmer's deep commitment to social holiness, justice, and the transformation of communities in the name of Jesus. This award recognizes ministries that address the root causes of suffering and injustice, stand with those who are marginalized or overlooked, and work toward lasting change through courageous, gospel-shaped action.

Tonight, in that same Spirit, we celebrate Findlay St Marks United Methodist Church of the Maumee River District as the winner of the Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer Award. St Marks, led by Rev Dan Metzger, is seeking to move the needle in their community on childcare, housing, hunger, education and more, often through partnerships with other churches and organizations.

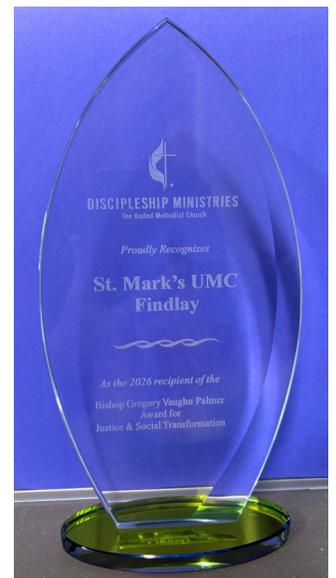
In 2025 they addressed the need for adequate childcare by opening their building to Little Lions Playschool, a preschool for ages 3-5. For several years they have offered Night to Shine, sharing God's love through a prom for those with special needs, and this year have moved locations and partnered with two other churches to host this prom at the University of Findlay. A ministry called Give a Crock supports over 25 seniors and single parents monthly through a free crock pot plus the ingredients and recipes for simple meals. St Marks also partners with Habitat for Humanity, City Mission, Open Arms, Grief Share, and the school district on mental health awareness.

St Marks embodies love for all of their neighbors, from the homeless to the Haitian community, from grieving adults to children and youth. As they seek to grow in discipleship, they seek to address the needs of the community around them.

I am so proud to be your pastor, and I can't wait to see what God will continue to do through us in the coming year!

Blessings,

Pastor Dan



Spotlight on the Staff of St Marks: Caitlin Parke

Have you ever had a nickname? Care to Share?

I've had some nicknames, but the most prominent is Cat/Kitty Cat, given to me by my best friend. My dad also called me Dailey, which is my middle name, since I was little. I actually use my nickname in my stage name, Cat Dailey, when I play out and about.

Where did you “grow-up” and what was your favorite thing about that place?

I grew up just outside of Findlay, not too far from Rawson and Jenera. My favorite thing about living there was having so many animals growing up. We had horses, dogs, cats, rabbits, and birds; my parents may have been a bit too accomodating. As an adult, I appreciate the greenery and nature and being able to experience the changing of the seasons and cycles of the earth. I'm currently learning how to appreciate winter and the cold.



See Cat Dailey LIVE on Tuesday,
March 10th at 11:30 AM in the
Marathon Center Armes Hall.
Bring your lunch and enjoy:
Lunchtime LIVE Inside

What was your favorite age of childhood?

What an interesting question. I really liked being very young, playing with my brothers and just being a child. Life seemed so simple back then.

What was your first job?

My first “real” job was being a lab assistant at Ohio State. I sat in the midi lab in the music school and did my homework. I went on to be a teaching assistant in some of my engineering classes, and I really loved being able to help other students learn concepts.

What do you like best about this job?

Being able to connect with people through music is so amazing and such a privilege. I really love being able to handpick the songs and see them come to life with our talented and wonderful band. Hearing how the music impacts the congregation is such a blessing and so encouraging.

What is the hardest thing you have to do in your job here?

It can be challenging when there are last minute personnel changes, like if someone gets sick. It helps that all the people I work with are so flexible and supportive, and I am also learning how to be flexible and prepared.

What do you work toward in your free time?

I am currently working on recording some of my own music to release. This has been a lifelong dream and goal of mine, so I'm really excited that it's coming true.

When you're having a “Bad Day”, what do you do to make yourself feel better?

I usually call a friend to commiserate, and that helps cheer me up. I also listen to music or do some songwriting depending on how I'm feeling. I'm not immune to picking up some of my favorite treats either, like some dark chocolate or Dietsch's ice cream.

Caitlin Parke interview continued....

Where are you most aware of God's presence?

I'm most aware of God's presence when I'm out in nature, in the woods, the mountains, or the ocean. Just the awe-inspiring magnificence reminds me of how small I am and how big and powerful God really is. That helps me to surrender even when I feel like I need to control what is out of my hands anyway.

What is your favorite place you've traveled to?

I had the opportunity to see a lot of Europe when I lived in Spain teaching English, and my favorite was road tripping around southern Spain with my best friend and our brothers at the end of our school year. We got to visit all the famous sites in the south. While in Cordoba on a balmy summer evening, we stumbled upon a night of live music in the courtyard of La Mesquita, a really beautiful Moorish mosque. We could hear some Spanish music drifting on the summer night breeze and followed it through these maze-like alleys until we came to the entrance of La Mezquita. It was such a surreal and dreamlike experience.

What is the best gift you have ever received? And who gave it to you?

My brother bought me a beautiful iridescent teal floor-length puffer coat. We had traveled to Korea earlier that year where long puffer coats were everywhere, and we had borrowed some from his friends when it got cold. I fell in love with how warm it was and how cool it looked. The gift was so unexpected and a reach for him financially. I was so surprised and touched by the gesture, and I just love that coat still to this day. To be genuinely surprised and delighted by a gift is unexpected. This winter has been so kind as to give me ample opportunity to wear it.

What are you the most excited about right now?

I am so excited to be moving forward into my music career. I went to school for chemical engineering and ended up getting my PhD in computational battery modeling. To go that far into something and deciding I didn't want to do it anymore was quite a journey, including blind faith, therapy, and lots of journaling. Moving into music has been like coming home to myself, and the opening of the worship leader position at St. Mark's came at just the right time and has been a huge answer to prayer. It's so cool to see how God has moved in my life and provided when I was afraid to move forward myself. I'm really excited about what opportunities are coming and how God is working things out behind the scenes. I can't wait to see how it all unfolds, and life now feels like an adventure.

How can we pray for you this month?

I would like prayer for me that the right doors, opportunities, and people come into my life. I would also appreciate prayer for my family for healing. I want to bring God's power and truth to worship at St. Mark's, and I would appreciate prayer for this.

A note to my wonderful St. Mark's worshippers and church family: Please come say hi, and if there's any songs or music you would like to hear, feel free to come tell me. The band and I are there to help you connect with God, and you're an active participant in worship. We are always looking for people to join the band, whether it's singing or playing an instrument. Don't let fear keep you from trying if you feel called or would like to learn more about it. Come talk to me. I pray for your healing and growth in the Lord, and I appreciate your prayers and encouragement. Caitlin Parke, PhD

St Marks Sermon Schedule

Lesser Know Holy Days

February 15
Transfiguration Sunday
Matthew 17:1-13

Lenten Series
In the Upper Room

February 22
The Towel and the Basin
John 13:1-17

March 1
The Betrayal and
the New Command
John 13:21-35

March 8
I Am The Way
John 14:1-14

March 15
The Vine and the Branches
John 15:1-17

**The 2026 St Marks
Leadership Team**

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

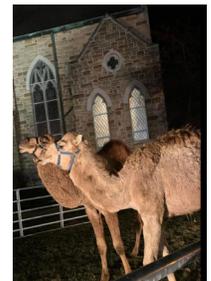
Rev. Dan Metzger
Leadership Team Chair – Laura Rhodes
SPRC – Kaitlin Peraino
SPRC - Val Milum
Trustee Team – Matt Fix
Trustee Team – Mike Lee
Trustee Team – Joe Stoner
Trustee Team – Don Snyder
Finance Team – Jeremy Theiss
Finance Team – Becky Iten
Member - Dylan Burkholder
Member – Denise Claflin
Member – Lyndsay Hite

At-large Member Endowment Fund
Committee—Scott Rhodes

Lay Member to Annual Conference
– Erma Metzger



**An Update on the Church Directories:
I was told they will be shipped within a week.
You will have it by the end of the month.**



**American Red Cross Blood Drive at St Marks
March 26, 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.



HANCOCK PUBLIC HEALTH

MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC SERVICES

Here in St Marks *before, during and after*
our worship services!

Please stop in.

We love you and want to keep you healthy.



WE CARE ABOUT YOUR HEART!

February is American Heart Month, a nationwide observance that spotlights cardiovascular disease and the need for more lifesavers.

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS!

To maintain cardiovascular health, it's essential to know your numbers and manage them effectively!

Sunday, February 22, 2026

8am-1 pm

Light Breakfast will be provided!



Services Available During Event:

- Health Screening
- Quit Smoking Education
- Vital Signs (including BP)
- Body Mass Index (BMI)
- Cholesterol Panel (if Fasting)
- Blood Sugar (glucose)

Do you remember our outreach to Cancer Patient Services last year? We got the nicest thank you card from them.

**St Marks
November
Community Outreach**



Bags of Hope

- October outreach activity
- Collect items for cancer patients
- Assemble bags to take to Cancer Patient Services
- Visit St. Marks website for link to amazon wish list
- Deliver bags to CPS



“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...”

Thank You!

St Marks UWF is so grateful to YOU for supporting our

“Everything Chocolate” fundraiser. We hope you enjoyed the goodies as much as we did. And we are especially grateful to Terri Coldwell for the beautiful artwork she crafted for us to sell.

Coming Soon: The UWF will begin collecting seed packets for the Jackson Area Ministry.



Jackson Area Ministries is an official United Methodist Church ministry that helps needy families in southern Ohio plant their own vegetable gardens.

The UWF will be collecting vegetable seed packets again, and this year we are also asking for monetary donations to help JAM pay for the 20,000 tomato plants that they purchase.

If you would like to help, just look for the colorful display.

Dear Friends at St. Mark's UMC.
Thank you so much for the wonderful goody bags you so generously provided for our clients undergoing chemotherapy. Your kindness & thoughtfulness truly made a difference. The clients absolutely loved the bags & enjoyed every gift inside. The cards were especially meaningful & brought many smiles - those personal messages of encouragement meant more than you know during a challenging time. We are grateful for your compassion & support of our clients. Your generosity helped brighten their days & reminded them that they are not alone.
With heartfelt thanks,
Joanne Reinhart & CPS Team
Program Director Cancer Patient Services

Kitchen Cleaning
Monday, February 16th 10:00 AM

We will be cleaning the DOCK and the Church kitchen. If we have enough volunteers we will split up and tackle both kitchens at once, but, if necessary, we'll start with the church kitchen. Many hands make light work.

That reminds me, bring your rubber gloves and maybe a small bucket for soapy water.

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!

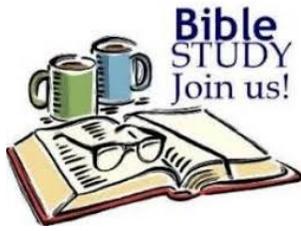
DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

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



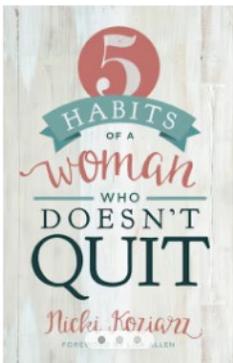
Chapter by Chapter The Book of Mark

Pastor Dan will begin a new class on Wednesday nights starting January 28. It will be a chapter-by-chapter study of the book of Mark. If you are interested in attending, please email Dan at dmetzger@stmarksfindlay.org

Here at St Marks we have several opportunities for Small group Bible Study.

Every Sunday morning between the two services, adults meet in Fellowship Hall. 10:00 AM Newcomers are always welcome. Come check it out!

There are also small groups that meet every other week in the chapel on Sunday evening.



Monday Women's Bible Study

Mondays at 1:30 PM in the chapel.

They are studying, A Woman who doesn't Quit from the book of Ruth by Nicki Koziarz

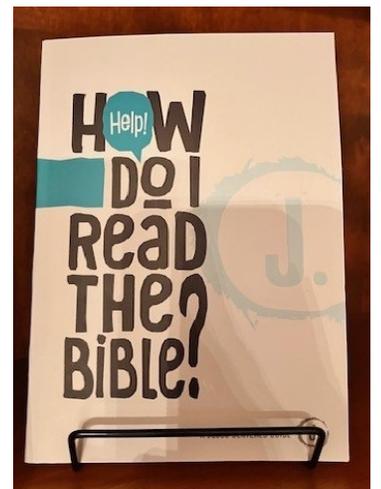
If you have any questions or would like to join this group, see Sherri Frantz or Leslie Shufelt

St Marks Library Read. Reflect. Grow.

Have you checked out the church library recently? We also have a library cart in the Dock with additional books and resources that you can check out!

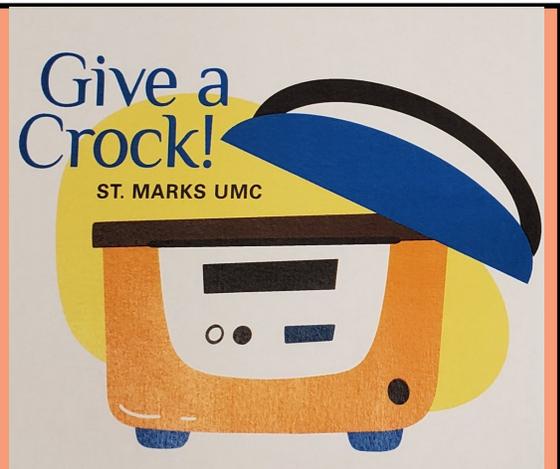
January's Book of the Month

Help! How Do I Read the Bible? Go from reading the Bible because you should... to reading it because you *want* to. Help! How Do I Read the Bible? is a Bible reading guide that strips away complicated study lessons and theological lingo common in Bible-reading guides and reveals a simpler truth: reading the Bible is about discovering God's heart. When we know *why* we're reading and *who* we're reading about, the *how* falls naturally into place.



Check it out from the church library in the main building!

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 February is **Crockpot Kielbasa and Green Beans**. Donations are needed by February. Items needed are: 15 oz cans of green beans and cans of chicken broth. The kielbasa will need to be purchased by the Give-a-Crock ministry so that it is fresh and can be portioned correctly. This is why donations of money are also greatly appreciated. Volunteers to fill the bags: Wednesday, February 25, 11:00 AM in the church kitchen.



February donation requests for the big black barrel

Salad Dressings
Thousand Island
Italian Dressing

Ranch Dressing
Spaghetti Sauce

**Men's Night:
 Strong & Steady**

**Monday, February 23,
 6:30 - 8:00 PM
 in the DOCK.**

**Food, games,
 team trivia, and
 a short, practical
 message for men
 18+. Please sign up
 on the Events tab
 of our website -
 stmarksfindlay.org.**

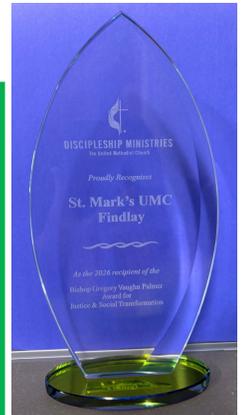


**Habitat for Humanity
 ReStore**

is asking for help to revitalize and reorganize their space. They are looking for volunteers who can come February 9-13.

St Marks UMC is

**MOVING
 THE NEEDLE**



**ST ANDREWS
 FREE LAUNDRY
 NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

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

**TUESDAYS &
 THURSDAYS
 9 AM - 3 PM**

**THERE IS AN
 EMPLOYEE ON-SITE
 AT ALL TIMES**

Volunteers are needed to just be a friendly face, someone to talk with, to admire their children, and to listen.

Funeral Luncheons The following list of members have signed up to provide food or serve at the occasional funeral luncheon at St Marks. If you would like to either be added or taken off of this list, please contact Tina in the church office. Thank you.

	Bring Food	Serve		Bring Food	Serve
Anita Heintzelamn	x	x	Sandi Helms	x	
Becky Babcock	x		Sonja Babcock	x	
Brenda Blunk	x	x	Tina Aisel	x	x
Cy Seffrin	x	x	Tracy Hiller	x	
Diane Hite	x	x	Wanda Cusac	x	x
Eileen Stalets	x	x	Laura Durliat	x	
Jack Wasbro	x		Tina Miller	x	x
Jeanne McCaffrey	x	x	Linda Colwell	x	x
Joan Powell	x		Lyndsay Hite	x	x
Kaitlin Peraino	x		Kathy Newell	x	x
Kim Dehnhoff	x	x	Brianna Searls	x	x
Leslie Shufelt	x	x	Don Snyder		x
Louanne Joseph	x		Karen Christman		x
Marlene Yoxtheimer	x	x	Marilyn Hackenberg	x	x
Miriam Kuhn	x		Beth Yoder	x	x



The next 13 week session of GriefShare begins Wednesday, February 25—May 20, 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.

Share this information with a friend or family member 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 Pre-registration is suggested so that adequate materials can be ordered, but it is not required.

Looking ahead:

February 18—First Day of Lent

April 2—Maundy Thursday

April 3—Good Friday

April 5—Easter Sunday



ST. MARKS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2026 FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF 01/31/2026

1. 2026 ACTUAL GENERAL GIVING VERSUS 2026 GENERAL ACTUAL EXPENSES

	Year To Date <u>1/31/2026</u>
Actual General Giving Received through 01/31/2026	\$31,560
Actual General Expenses Paid through 01/31/2026	(<u>\$39,965</u>)
Subtotal YTD Actual General Giving Less Than Actual General Expenses Paid through 01/31/2026	(<u>\$8,405</u>)
NOTE: In Order to Meet Our 2026 100% Apportionments Commitment, St. Marks UMC Needs to Pay \$61,716 by 12/31/2026.	<u>\$0</u>
YTD Actual General Giving Less than Actual General Expenses Paid through 01/31/2026	(<u>\$8,405</u>)

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

The average weekly General giving through 01/31/2026 was \$7,890. This was short by (\$4,312) as of 01/31/2026.

*** Total 2026 West Ohio Conference & Maumee River District Apportionments Commitments at 100% is \$61,716. We have paid 0% of the \$61,716 towards our West Ohio Conference & Maumee River District Apportionments (\$0 from General Fund & \$0 from Missions Fund. Total Paid \$0), so our unpaid Apportionment balance as of 01/31/2026 is \$61,716.**

2. 2026 ACTUAL MISSION GIVING VERSUS 2026 MISSION BUDGET NEEDS

	Year To Date <u>1/31/2026</u>
Actual Mission Giving Received through 01/31/2026	\$1,720
Mission Giving Required for 2026 Mission Budget Needs through 01/31/2026	<u>\$2,152</u>
YTD Actual Mission Giving Less Than 2026 Mission Budget Needs	(<u>\$432</u>)

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