



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.**



July 2026



Dear Church Family,



There is something special about July. We gather with family and friends, enjoy cookouts and fireworks, and celebrate the freedoms we enjoy as Americans.



Paul's letter to the Galatians talks a lot about freedom, and it's something even more amazing than what we celebrated on America's 250th. He tells us that Jesus helps us discover what it truly means to live as people who have been set free. Paul reminds us that the Gospel is astonishingly simple: we are not saved by our good works, our religious performance, or our ability to keep a list of rules. We are saved by the grace of Jesus Christ alone. Jesus + nothing = everything. That's good news for every one of us because it means we don't have to earn God's love, we simply receive it.



But the freedom Christ gives isn't permission to live however we please. It's an invitation to become who God created us to be. As we walk by the Holy Spirit, we begin to experience the life we've always longed for: a life marked by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It turns out that true freedom isn't found in living for ourselves; it's found in loving God and serving others.



Additionally, because we've been forgiven so completely, we are free to forgive others. What a gift that is! We don't have to carry the weight of bitterness, resentment, or shame any longer. Instead, we get to extend grace, carry one another's burdens, restore the broken, and love as Christ has loved us.



As you celebrate with family this month, I hope you'll take a moment to remember the greatest freedom ever won. Long before there were fireworks lighting the sky, there was an empty tomb announcing that sin and death had been defeated forever. Through Christ, our chains have been broken. We are forgiven. We are loved. We are free.



Thank you for allowing me to walk this journey of faith with you. It is a joy to serve as your pastor, and I look forward to continuing to discover together what it means to live in the freedom of Christ.



Blessings,



Pastor Dan



Pastor Dan's podcast.



Sermop Prep is a podcast created by Pastor Dan Metzger. 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!

The easiest place to find it is at 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

All Together Now

July 12

We All Have a Part
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

July 19

Jesus Loves the Little Children
Luke 18:15-17

July 26

Stronger Together
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

August 2

We Belong Together
Acts 2:42-47

James: Real Faith for Real Life

August 9

Trials, Temptation and Testing
James 1:2-4, 12-15

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 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.

If you are able, please sign up to donate.

Go to redcrossblood.org to register.



St. Marks Summer Fest THIS SUNDAY!



Join your church family on Sunday, July 12th from 5:00-7:00 pm for St. Marks Summer Fest for the whole family! This awesome parking lot party includes yummy food from the grill, live music, yard games, and some fun contests for adults + kids! You will NOT want to miss this opportunity for fun + fellowship! The Dock will also be open for those who need some time out of the heat.

Contact Mandy Stevens
(mstevens@stmarksfindlay.org) with any questions and watch for sign-ups soon!



WE PRESENTLY HAVE 28 RECIPIENTS MONTHLY. YOUR DONATION OF FOOD ITEMS OR MONITARY DONATIONS HELP TO KEEP OUR MISSION GOING.

OUR RECIPE FOR JULY IS CHICKEN NOODLE CASSEROLE

**INGREDIENTS NEEDED:
32 OZ CARTON CHICKEN BROTH
12.5 OZ CAN OF CANNED CHICKEN
10.5 OZ CAN CREAM OF MUSHROOM
1 LB BOXES OF SPAGHETTI NOODLES
14.5 OZ CAN MIXED VEGETABLES**

Ingredients needed by July 26, please.

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 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.

On Sunday, Jul 19th, we will have the honor of hearing from the family who will be moving into the home we are helping to 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

Apostle Build 2026



Habitat for Humanity®
Findlay/Hancock County

ReStore®

Donate • Shop • Volunteer • Open to the Public



Findlay has a coalition of 13 local churches that are coming together to raise funds, provide volunteers and offer prayer support to build a home for a family in need.

It's an Apostle Build!

The building shifts for St Marks will be :
August 25th 2 shifts - AM and PM doing siding & hospitality
and

October 6th - 1 shift doing landscaping

We will be raising money throughout the summer. Our goal is to raise \$8000.00.
A big THANK YOU goes out to the VBS kids who got us started by raising over \$400!

Sign-up sheets are available at stmarksfindlay.org.



**Salt & Pepper
Chili Powder
Garlic Powder**

July donation requests
for the big black barrel

**Onion Powder
Cumin
Paprika**



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.



Books of the Month

Looking to grow in your faith but not sure where to start? Our church library has an excellent series of easy-to-read books that cover the basics of the Christian life.

Titles such as *How Do I Pray?*, *How Do I Read the Bible?*, and *How Do I Know God's Will?* offer practical, biblical guidance for everyday faith.

Stop by the church library and check one out - we hope they'll encourage and strengthen your walk with Christ.



GRIEFSHARE LEADERSHIP TEAM IS GOING TO THE YMCA, DOWNTOWN.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 10 AM–NOON.

They will be leading a two hour seminar called "Loss of Spouse."

Losing your spouse will change your life forever. With the help of GriefShare you will find reasons for hope, receive tips for coping and discover other people who understand and have found ways to make it through losing their spouse.

Come yourself or share this information with others who have lost their spouse.

Call the Church 419-422-4236 or Linda Colwell 419-423-3951 to register.

The next regular 13 week session of GriefShare for all types of human loss will be August 19–November 11, 2026.



United
Women
in Faith



We are so much more than ladies peddling cookies, pies, chocolate, baked potatoes and soup.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

HELPING SUPPORT THE FINDALY WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER



The WRC offers free and confidential services to help young mothers (and fathers) make healthy, life-affirming decisions.

Located across from the University of Findlay, they provide pregnancy tests, mentoring and fatherhood classes, Bible Study, parenting classes, supervised visitation assistance, and have a points program that gives young parents the opportunity to "shop" baby supplies when they participate in parenting classes.

This fits in well with the United Women in Faith's mission to do what we can to support women, children and youth.

Please, stop by one of the Angel Trees in the lobby and help us to fill the WRC supply room.

And check out our silent auction display Jewelry Art with a Christmas theme.



Ready to Grow?

What happens on Sunday is just the beginning. Throughout the week, we want to help you stay connected to what God is teaching you as you grow in your faith. Visit the new “Grow” page at stmarksfindlay.org and use the *Take It Home* notes to revisit the message (or to follow along with the message if you are watching online), read & reflect with the *Faith 5* each day, and listen to the weekly worship playlist wherever you are. We can't wait to see how these simple, consistent steps will lead to real growth.



Speaking of Growing...

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.





Mission Trip

June 20-25, 2026



Register @ stmarksfindlay.org/events



Our youth worked very hard to make
Pittsburg a better place.



LITTLE LIONS

PLAYSCHOOL

GARAGE SALE

Great finds. Great prices.
Supporting our little learners!

DROP OFF DAYS

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY
JULY 6TH, 7TH & 8TH
9-12



We appreciate clean,
gently used donations!
Thank you for helping
our playschool thrive!



SALE DAYS

THURSDAY-SATURDAY
JULY 9TH, 10TH & 11TH

THURSDAY
& FRIDAY

8-4

SATURDAY

8-12



Location:

The DOCK
at 800 S Main St



♥ SHOP • SUPPORT • MAKE A DIFFERENCE ♥
Thank you for supporting Little Lions Playschool!



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

