



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.**



November 2025



Dear church family,

I want to share with you a vision and a goal that God has laid on my heart, and I believe God is leading us towards as a church community. This is something that I have been thinking and praying about for many years. I discovered, as I was serving in pastoral ministry, that often times the ways in which a church would measure whether or not they were successful was two-fold: how full are the pews, and how full are the offering plates. And while these can certainly be indicators of church health, they are not our ultimate goal.

The mission statement of the United Methodist Church is “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

At St Marks we have our own mission statement: “Love God, Love Others, Change the World.” Both of these mission statements point toward two key components: the church is meant to make deeply committed disciples of Jesus Christ, and these disciples should create positive change in the world.

We believe that followers of Jesus – empowered by the Holy Spirit and filled with the Love of God – produce evidence of their faith by the way they transform the community and world around them. Therefore, as disciples of Jesus Christ grow in the love for God and one another, we should see evidence of their impact in the lives of our neighbors. Our hope is that we “move the needle,” seeing change in our own hearts, and measurable change in our community, that our service and ministry are making a difference in the lives of others.

Therefore, beginning January 2026 to December 2035, we will identify areas of potential community transformation to be impacted by disciples empowered by the Holy Spirit and the influence of St. Marks United Methodist Church, and we will endeavor to see measurable impact in our community, for the Kingdom of God and the glory of Jesus Christ.

This is our shared vision: **Over the next ten years, St. Mark’s will equip and empower disciples whose faith in action brings measurable transformation to the people and neighborhoods of Findlay and Hancock County.**

We will be exploring possibilities around education, food security, affordable child care, both physical and mental health, elder care, incarcerated populations, housing, root causes of poverty, and any other areas where we sense the Spirit leading us, where can **move the needle** and create impact in the community around us. Real, measurable change is possible through disciples, growing in their faith and empowered by the Holy Spirit. My dream is that in ten years' time, we will be able to look back and see the Kingdom impact we have had.

Of course, none of this is possible without you! We ask our members to participate with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. It will take all of us, offering all of these things, to see God's vision lived out in our community. So, I invite you to be here with us, as often as you can. Your presence makes a difference! I invite you to serve with us and to share your witness in our community of the love of Jesus. I invite you, especially in this stewardship season, to consider what ways God is asking you to give to this mission and ministry in our church. And of course, I invite you to pray. Here is the prayer that has been on my heart, and I would invite you to make it the prayer of your heart as well:

*Lord Jesus,
Move the needle in our hearts.
Make our faith deeper, our love wider, our witness stronger.
Move the needle in our community.
Bring hope, meet needs, and change lives by Your grace.
Use us for Your glory,
And make us bold in your mission to see transformation in our world.
Amen.*

I'm so proud to be your pastor, and I'm blown away by all you have already done to make a Kingdom impact in our community. I cannot wait to see all of the doors God is going to open up for us as we make ourselves available to His Kingdom purposes!

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

St Marks Sermon Schedule

Stewardship—

Moving the Needle

November 9
Love God

November 16
Love Others

November 23
Change the World

Not a Silent Night

November 30
Beginning With the End
Acts 1:8-14

December 7
Piercing of Mary's Soul
Luke 2:14, 34-35
Romans 5:1, 6-8

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

Hallelujah!

God is alive and
working through
St Marks.

Thank you, friends,
for the many cards
for my 102 birthday.

Jean Holmes

American Red Cross Blood Drive at St Marks

Thursday, November 13, 2025.

It will take place in the DOCK from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00
p.m.

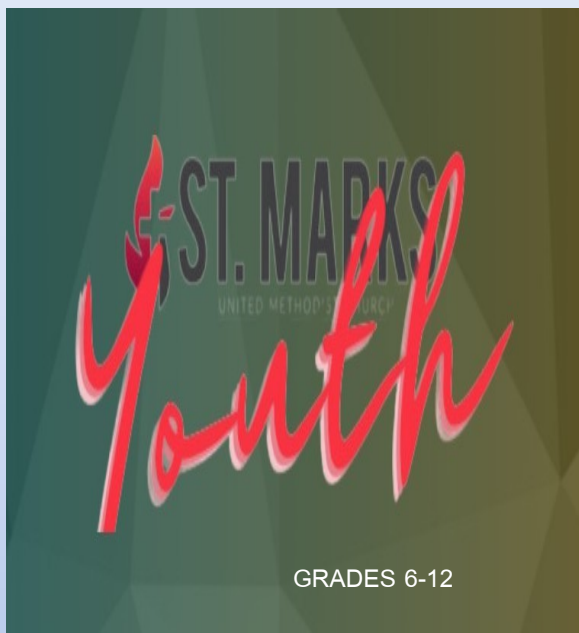
There is an urgent shortage. If you are able,
please sign up to donate.

Go

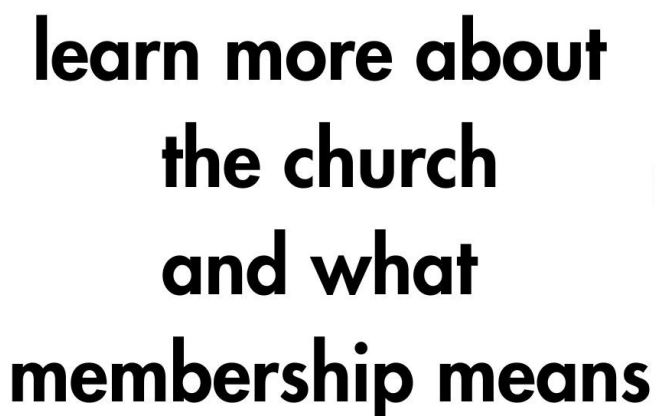


to redcrossblood.org to register.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT ST MARKS!
PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES.
6:30—8:00 PM



Pizza with the Pastor



Sign up today!

Nov 10
12 pm

12 pm

The recipe for November is **Turkey Taco Soup**

Ingredients needed by Nov. 17th.

- 15.5 oz cans of kidney beans
- 14.5 oz cans of diced tomatoes
- Paprika, garlic powder, bullion powder

The recipe for December is **Five Ingredient Chili**

- 15.5 oz cans of kidney beans
- 14.5 oz cans of diced tomatoes
 - Tomato sauce
- Packets of chili seasoning



Christmas Gift Idea:

Can Openers and Tupperware



November and December donation requests for the big black barrel

Canned Vegetables
Boxed Mashed Potatoes
Box Stuffing
Dessert Mixes
Can Sweet Potatoes

Paper Plates
Napkins
Plastic forks and spoons
Baggies

Surviving the Holidays

Are you facing grief through the holiday season?

The GriefShare Ministry of St. Marks is offering a special Holiday Seminar on Wednesday, November 19 at 10:00 AM and again at 6:30 PM. The content is the same so choose the time that works for you.

You do not have to be a member of the current GriefShare classes to attend.

This is a stand alone class. It is to learn how to deal with the many emotions you will face during the holidays after the loss of a loved one.

Any adult or friend of St. Marks is welcome to attend.

Call the church office, 419-422-4236 or Linda Colwell to register or for further information.

The next 13 week study begins on Wednesdays,
February 25—May 20, 2026

All Saints Day—2025

Clifton G. Babcock

Roger L. Core

Shawn Eric Spencer

Jeanne J. Wasbro

Lois J. Wohlgamuth

William H. Stalets

Elnora Louise Bechtol

Brema C. Colvin

James C. Shrader

Cassandra Ohlrich

Dale Howard

Julia “Judy” Whetstone

Thomas L. Wohlgamuth

*George Arthur Gilts (2013)

*Annabel Thomas (2011)

A Memorial
For
Dale Howard
From
Larry & Diane Schaller

A Memorial
For
Shawn Spencer
From
The Waterville Golf League

Memorials
For
Judy Whetstone
From
Jo Binger
Keith Mohr
Joe & Carol Long
Linda Whetstone

Exciting Updates in Our Church Library!

Great news! Our church library just received a fresh collection of newly published books, carefully chosen to encourage spiritual growth, support everyday faith, and spark curiosity for adult readers. Whether you're looking for inspiring Christian living, thoughtful theology, Bible study resources, devotionals, or Bible basics, we've added something for everyone.



You're invited to stop by, browse the shelves, and check something out soon! If you haven't visited our library in a while, this is the perfect time to rediscover this valuable resource. Let's use it, share it, and grow together as a church family.

Happy reading!

Mandy Stevens

Director of Discipleship
St. Marks Church

PS:

The Church library also offers books that are on the United Women in Faith Reading Program Book List as well as the monthly subscription to Response Magazine.



P.P.S.

The library also has a couple dozen puzzles that can be borrowed.



Advent begins Sunday, November 30—The Candle of Hope
Sunday, December 7—The Candle of Peace
Sunday December 14—The Candle of Love
Sunday December 21—The Candle of Joy

The fifth candle represents the birth of Christ. The flame of this candle reminds us that He is the light of the world and that if we follow Him, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

Wanted: Shut-ins who would like Communion

St Marks finds itself with more faithful volunteers to deliver communion than we have folks who have asked for a visit. So, would you or someone you know appreciate a visit on the first Sunday of the month with communion elements and a prayer?

Contact the church office or speak to Sandi Helms.

Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes

Please note that contributions in the offering envelope marked in your numbered envelope boxes as “My Thanksgiving Offering” are specifically designated to “MISSIONS.”

COATS FOR CHRISTMAS

Soon there will be a box for your gently used coats as well as new blankets. Thank you!

Coats for Christmas is a great example of the community working together to help out those who are on a tight budget or who are in need and cannot afford a winter coat.



COMING UP IN DECEMBER



A Saturday evening of fun for the whole family. We set up a stable on the front lawn with actors playing the roles of the nativity and have live animals: a cow, sheep and a camel!

In the DOCK there are crafts and games, hot chocolate and Santa Clause!

We are asking for actors and volunteers to participate in the Live Nativity. We have 2 shifts of for the scene in the stable: 6—7 PM and 7-8 PM. It's just sitting/standing. There are no lines to learn. We also need volunteers to help with Christmas crafts and games in the DOCK

Sign-up on the Events Tab on our website, send Pastor Dan or Tina an email, or call and leave a message on the church phone. (419) 422-4236

Christmas Offering Envelopes

Please note that contributions in the offering envelope marked in your numbered envelope boxes as "MY CHRISTMASOFFERING" are specifically designated to "MISSIONS".



CALLING ALL COOKIE BAKERS!

It's the Season for Decadent Baked Goods and the UWF could use your help with baking. The United Women In Faith will be holding a Christmas bake sale between both services on Sunday, December 14th and they promised to provide cookies as refreshments after the December 14th Christmas Concert. That is a lot of baking. So, if you make special cookies, candy, bar cookies, brownies, etc. we'd love for you to contribute them for the sale and concert. Please bring your items to the Church Mon, Dec 8th—Thurs, Dec 11th, between 8 AM and 4:00 PM and the UWF will use them to make assorted cookie boxes.

And if you love to eat special cookies, candy, bar cookies, brownies, etc. we'd love for you to support the United Women In Faith (and your sweet tooth) by making a purchase.

Proceeds from the sales will go to the charities supported by the UWF.



A Christmas Concert

*Music performed by
St Marks Chancel Choir
and Our Praise Band*

Sunday December 14 - 7:00 PM

Refreshments afterwards in Fellowship Hall

MAGICAL PROM NIGHT CELEBRATION



Plans are already in the works for the 2026 Night to Shine which will be held February 13, 2026.

Registration is open on our St Marks website! You can get your loved one an invitation and/or become a volunteer. And we NEED volunteers so we can make sure this next party can include every special guest who wishes to attend.

The party out-grew the DOCK so this next dance will be held at the University of Findlay's Alumni Memorial Union (AMU).

Of course, donations are being accepted to purchase food and fabulous decorations. We also need to purchase at least 150 crowns because EVERY guest is crowned by their date as king or queen of the prom!

If you wish to contribute, checks can be made out to St Marks United Methodist, but please attach a note or put it in an envelope clearly marked that the money is to go to Night to Shine.



**ST. MARKS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2025 FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF 10/31/2025**

1. 2025 ACTUAL GENERAL GIVING VERSUS 2025 GENERAL ACTUAL EXPENSES
--

	<u>Year To</u> <u>10/31/2025</u>
Actual General Giving Received through 10/31/2025	\$527,803
Actual General Expenses Paid through 10/31/2025	<u>(\$467,878)</u>
Subtotal YTD Actual General Giving More Than Actual General Expenses Paid through	\$59,925
NOTE: In Order to Meet Our 2025 100% Apportionments Commitment, St. Marks UMC Needs to Pay \$10,000 by 12/31/2025.	<u>(\$28,799)</u>
YTD Actual General Giving More than Actual General Expenses Paid through 10/31/2025	<u>\$31,126</u>

Total 2025 General Operating Budget is \$612,900. \$11,787 is needed weekly to cover operating expenses.

The average weekly General giving through 10/31/2025 was \$12,274. This was over by \$487 as of 10/31/2025.

*** Total 2025 West Ohio Conference & Maumee River District Apportionments Commitments at 100% is \$58,299. We have paid 83% of the \$58,299 towards our West Ohio Conference & Maumee River District Apportionments (\$28,799 from General Fund & \$19,500 from Missions Fund. Total Paid \$48,299), so our unpaid Apportionment balance**

2. 2025 ACTUAL MISSION GIVING VERSUS 2025 MISSION BUDGET NEEDS

	<u>Year To</u> <u>10/31/2025</u>
Actual Mission Giving Received through 10/31/2025	\$26,951
Mission Giving Required for 2025 Mission Budget Needs through 10/31/2025	<u>\$23,154</u>
YTD Actual Mission Giving More Than 2025 Mission Budget Needs	<u>\$3,797</u>

Total 2025 Mission Budget is \$28,000. \$538 is needed weekly and \$7,000 is needed per Payments: Q1 \$8,000, Q2 \$8,800, Q3 \$9,200. Total Paid Year to Date: \$26,000.

2025 Year-End Contributions to St Marks

In order to receive a tax deduction for 2025, all contributions to St Marks UMC must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2025. According to IRS regulations, we cannot issue a tax-deductible receipt for 2025 regardless of the date on the check, if the envelope in which the contribution is received is postmarked after December 31, 2025. Please mail your year-end gift early to ensure proper credit for the 2025 tax year. Your contributions should be turned in no later than the last Sunday of December, (12/28/2025), in order for your contribution to appear on your 2025 Contribution Statement. All 2025 stock sale contributions should be finalized by no later than Friday, December 5, 2025. Please contact Linda Whetstone prior to December 5th if you have questions regarding your 2025 stock sale contributions.