ST. MARKS CHURCH - FINDLAY, OHIO

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



Hello, St. Marks! I'm Bruce Beck, your historian for our upcoming 75th/175th anniversary celebration in October 2027.

Last month, I shared a bit of my own personal history with our congregation. This month, let's take a journey through time by looking at the buildings and physical locations where we have worshipped, served, and gathered across the decades.

For nearly 175 years, St. Marks has been a cornerstone of faith, fellowship, and community in Findlay. Looking back at our architectural journey reveals how God has guided and grown our church family through the generations:

Humble Beginnings (1852): St. Marks started as part of a three-church United Brethren in Christ circuit, gathering first in homes and a schoolhouse on West Front Street. By 1854, our first permanent building was completed—a historic structure that still stands at the corner of West Crawford and West streets.

Growth & Relocation (1865–1950): Incorporated in 1865, the church grew to 160 members by 1884, prompting a move to a new home at West Hardin and South Cory streets in 1888. Following a nationwide merger in 1948, we became the First Evangelical United Brethren Church. After nearly 20 years of searching for a new downtown location, ground was finally broken in 1950 at our present home at 800 S. Main Street.

Becoming St. Marks (1968–Present): With the 1968 merger of the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Church, we adopted our current name, St. Marks United Methodist Church.

Expanding Our Welcome: Over the decades, we have continually adapted our facilities to better serve our community. We added an elevator in 1974, dedicated the DOCK (Doors Open for Christ's Kingdom) multifaceted facility in 2005—which famously served as a temporary police station during the 2007 flood and now hosts our 10:45 AM contemporary worship service—and completed a major addition in December 2019, featuring a new entryway and elevator to make our main building fully accessible.

From our earliest days of meeting in living rooms to our beautiful church buildings and vibrant ministries today, St. Marks has a proud heritage of serving Findlay as followers of Jesus who love God, love others, and change the world.

Blessings,
Bruce

OUR MISSION IS TO MAKE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS WHO:

LOVE GOD

LOVE OTHERS

CHANGE THE WORLD

OUR VISION:

REACHING AND NURTURING THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS

Gather - find your people!

Worship with Us

9:00 - Traditional Service (with the choir + hymns) in the Sanctuary

10:45 - Contemporary Service (with a praise band) in The Dock

Donuts & Decorating: A Decorating Christmas Party!

Can't get enough of decorating for Christmas or just want to hang out with your church family? Join us for Donuts & Decorating on Saturday, November 28th from 9:00-11:00AM to help decorate the church for Christmas. Sign up on the events tab so we know how many donuts to bring. Any questions or suggestions? Talk to Mandy Stevens, Director of Discipleship.

St. Marks Breakfast Club

The St. Marks Breakfast Club (formerly known as the Band of Brothers & Sisters) warmly invites you to join us for great food and fellowship on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 8:00 AM. On the first Saturday, we meet at Scrambler's, and on the third Saturday, we explore different local restaurants as a roving band of breakfast connoisseurs—which inspired our new name. If you would like to be added to our mailing or text list to receive meeting reminders and all the relevant information, please reach out to Bruce Beck by email at brucevonbeck@gmail.com or by text at 419-672-9021.

Charge Conference 2026

You are invited to attend and vote at St Marks Charge Conference **Sunday, November 15th, 6:00 PM** at Journey at Christ Church, 225 W Bigelow Ave.

Charge conference is not "people out there" who make decisions that affect "us people in here."

A charge conference is the basic governing and decision-making body of our United Methodist congregation. Presided over by the district superintendent, this required annual meeting brings together clergy and elected lay leaders to review past ministry, approve budgets and staff salaries, elect church leaders, and connect the local church to the wider denomination.

Grief Share - *Surviving the Holidays*

The GriefShare Ministry of St. Marks is offering a special Holiday Seminar **Wednesday, November 18th at 10 A.M. and 6:30 P.M**.

If you are facing grief this holiday season, this class will help you learn how to deal with the many emotions you will be facing and what to do about traditions and other changes. We will learn helpful tips for surviving social events and discover hope for the future.

It is not necessary to be attending the current GriefShare classes. This is a stand alone event open to any adult or friend of St. Marks.
Please call the church office, 419-422-4236 or Linda Colwell, 419-423-3951 to register or for more information.

Walk To Emmaus

Do you seek Spiritual Renewal? New understanding of God's grace and love? Worship and community with other believers?
Then The Walk to Emmaus may be a great fit for you!

The Walk to Emmaus seeks to inspire, challenge and equip leaders for Christian action in their homes, places of work, and communities.

On an Emmaus weekend, you will - sing, reflect, pray, worship, learn, share Holy Communion, participate in small groups, experience God's grace in community and in the world and understand Christian love in action.

If this experience is of interest to you or you would like to learn more about The Walk to Emmaus, please contact Sherri Frantz 419 348 8185 or Ken Miller 419 306 5410.

The next walk is the Men's Walk on November 12-15, 2026

United Women in Faith

Lydia Ladies meets: December 2 at 10 am in the library.

Ruth Circle meets: December 7 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

St Marks Live Nativity - Saturday, Dec. 5, 2026

Open yourself up to the JOY of the season by joining the congregation in welcoming the community to an evening of fun for the whole family.
Sign-up to play a character in the Live Nativity. No acting skills required but you do get to wear a costume.
Live animals such as donkeys, camels, sheep and cows will join you.
Too shy for that? Then sign-up to bring in a crock pot of soup to feed the families who attend. There will also be hot chocolate and cookies!
A sign-up sheet will be available on the website soon.

Christmas Concert - Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 in the afternoon!

St Marks presents: O Come Let Us Adore Him

An afternoon of choral singing, orchestral music and the St Marks praise band followed by socializing and refreshments in Fellowship Hall.
We hope to all of you here!

Grow - deepen your faith!

GROW

Deepen your faith...

Grow from Home

Visit the Grow tab on the St. Marks website for:

- The Faith 5
- The Take it Home sermon notes
- Pastor Dan's "Sermon Prep Podcast"

Borrow a Book from the Church Library

We have a great selection of books on the Christian life, mental health, social topics, etc.

Grow at Church

Pastor Dan's Bible Study

"The Letters of Paul" will be the next subject of study at St Marks University. Classes will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. for 10 weeks, beginning September 9. Please register by Connect Card or talking with Pastor Dan.

Adult Sunday School Class

Did you know that we have a Sunday School class that meets in the Fellowship Hall area in the church's lowest level every Sunday at 10:00? Attendees discuss Pastor Dan's sermon and get to know one another better. All are welcome! Stop in any Sunday.

Go - find Your Mission in the community!

Food Insecurity

Give a Crock Donations

November's meal is Five Ingredient Chili. Donations needed include: 15 oz cans of diced tomatoes, 8 oz cans of tomato sauce, 15 ounce cans of kidney beans, packets of chili season, 1 pound package of pasta, or $12-$15 for perishable ingredients. Donations are needed by November 15.

Coats for Christmas Blanket Drive

We are collecting new or gently used blankets for the Coats for Christmas Blanket Drive. Please drop your blankets in the collection box in the lobby by November 20. Thank you!

Thanksgiving Meal for Bigelow Hill Families

On November 19th from 5-7pm we will be helping serve a Thanksgiving meal at Bigelow Hill school. If you'd like to donate a cooked turkey or dessert, or help serve the meal, talk with Kellie Bibler.

Education

Pages & Pals

Pages & Pals has been a great success! We have had approximately 20 Pals (adult volunteers from St. Marks) paired with 20 elementary age children meeting together each week at the YMCA Early Learning Center. The adult pal and student read a story together and do fun activities that help them with their early literacy skills. Want to join us for the next session in the winter? Talk with Elsa Shrader.

GO

Live your faith outside the church.

Find Your **Mission**

Help us **Move the Needle** in these areas in our community!

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.

Go - find Your Mission in the community!

Night To Shine Fabulous Fashion Give Away

Registration for Night to Shine attendees and volunteers opens on St Marks website this weekend!

The NTS Little Free Boutique will be open on Saturday, December 5th, 9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

They are looking for modest dresses for the ladies and suits or suit pieces (jackets, pants, shirts, vests) for our guys. Dressy hair clips, fancy purses, pretty/glamorous shawls and shrugs are the icing on the cake!

Items can be brought to St Marks during office hours (Tues - Thurs, 8-4) or contact Beth Yoder.

Christmas Cookies Donations Needed!

The United Women in Faith will once again be selling decorative boxes of home-baked Christmas Cookies in the St Marks lobbies on Sunday, December 13th.

They will also be providing cookies and punch in Fellowship Hall after the Christmas Concert.

In order to do that they are **CALLING ON ALL COOKIE BAKERS** to bake up a few dozen of their favorite Christmas cookies and donate them to the cause the week of December 8th. Contact the church office for more details or to sign up.

The proceeds from every UWF fundraiser is faithfully distributed to charities locally, nationally and internationally.

Thank you for supporting the United Women in Faith's Baked Potato Bar!

The proceeds from every UWF fundraiser is faithfully distributed to charities locally, nationally and internationally.

GO

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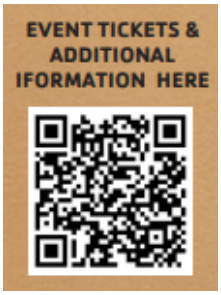
Community Events

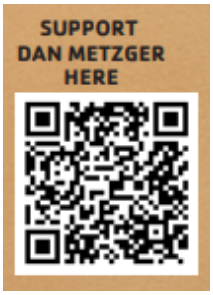
Men Who Cook - Findlay YMCA Fundraiser

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026 - 6-8:00 PM - Findlay Country Club

Dan is back this year again and cooking with a purpose!

Help Dan take the winner's title at this year's event with your support. Donate here before the event, then bring your cash to the event and continue to support Dan. The cook who raises the most money prior to and at the end of the event will be crowned the 2026 Men Who Cook Winner!
All proceeds benefit the Findlay Family YMCA's Annual Campaign which supports programs like Open Doors, Feed-A-Child, youth programs and more.





Van Buren UMC Holiday Craft Bazaar

Saturday, November 17, 2026, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
201 S. Main St, Van Buren, OH

A large variety of crafts and baked goods, a cookie walk, Lunch is available: chicken & noodles, veggie soup, sandwiches and pies.

Proceeds help support the Van Buren Feed-a-Child Program

The Old Millstream Ringers

Saturday, December 5, 2026 3:00 PM
St Pauls Church, 218 E Sandusky St, Findlay

"Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child" will be an afternoon of holiday handbell music.

In the Know

2026 St. Marks Leadership Team

Pastor
Dan Metzger

Leadership Team Chair
Laura Rhodes

SPRC
Kaitlin Peraino
Val Milum

Trustee Team
Matt Fix
Mike Lee
Joe Stoner
Don Snyder

Finance Team
Jeremy Theiss
Becky Iten

Member
Dylan Burkholder
Denise Claflin
Lyndsay Hite

At-large Member Endowment Fund Committee
Scott Rhodes

Lay Member to Annual Conference
Erma Metzger

Finance Updates

Financial Update: September 2026

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."
— Proverbs 11:25

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	$ 477,572	$ 475,875
Ministry Operating Expenses	$ (443,977)	$ (428,325)
Apportionments Paid	$ (32,366)	$ (47,550)
General Net Financial Position	**$ 1,229**	**$ -**
Mission Giving	$ 21,848	$ 21,000
Local Missions Supported	$ (4,950)	$ -
Apportionments Paid	$ (16,750)	$ (21,000)
Missions Net Financial Position	**$ 148**	**$ -**

Apportionments Paid: We have paid nearly 80% of our conference apportionment payments totaling $49,116. This is $32,366 from the General fund and $16,750 from Missions.
Our full year apportionment commitment is $61,716.

Note from the Finance Committee: Your dedication and faithful stewardship are making a lasting impact. By meeting our financial commitments, our church can continue investing in what matters most: growing in faith, serving our community, and maintaining the spaces that support our ministry. Thank you for helping us move our mission forward and for your commitment as we continue to "Move the Needle."

2026 Year-End Contributions to St Marks

For tax deductions for 2026, all contributions to St. Marks UMC must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2026. Please mail your year-end gift early to ensure proper credit for the 2026 tax year. Your contribution should be turned in no later than the last Sunday of December 27, 2026, to appear on your 2026 Contribution Statement. All 2026 stock sale contributions should be finalized no later than December 4, 2026. Please contact the office if you have questions regarding your 2026 stock sale contributions.

With Grateful Hearts

Just a few of the leaves of gratitude
from the All Saints Day service
November 1, 2026

