



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.**



October 2025

Dear Church Family,

When I was in college, one of the ways I most often served was by helping lead worship. I played guitar quite a bit, sometimes in chapel services, sometimes with small groups, sometimes just around a campfire with friends. But as the years have gone by and my role as a pastor has changed, I haven't picked up the guitar nearly as much. Ministry still involves worship, of course, but these days I'm usually the one preaching rather than playing.

That changed recently when I was asked to help lead worship for our youth retreat. So, I pulled an old guitar out of its case, tuned it up, and started practicing. And over the last week, I've probably played more music than I have in a long time.

Something happened in the middle of all that practice, though. Somewhere between running through chords and trying to remember lyrics, it stopped feeling like "practice" and started feeling like worship. I found myself starting my mornings not by checking email or reading the news, but by singing praises to God. And it changed my attitude for the entire day. It shifted my focus away from all the things that usually crowd my thoughts and centered my heart on Christ.

One of the classic hymns I found myself returning to was Holy, Holy, Holy. The second line of the first verse says:

"Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee."

There's something powerful about those words. They remind us that praise isn't just something we offer to God - it's something that shapes us. When we begin our day with worship, it's like setting the compass of our soul. It points us in the right direction before the busyness, worries, and distractions of the day have a chance to take over.

Starting the morning with a song (even if it's off-key!) is a simple, beautiful spiritual practice. It reminds us that before anything else, before the to-do lists and appointments and obligations, we are people created to worship. And when our first words and thoughts of the day rise to God, the rest of the day often follows.

So maybe this month, try making space for praise in the morning. Sing a hymn. Play a worship song. Hum a doxology while you make coffee. And let your soul rise to God "early in the morning," setting the tone for everything that follows.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan



October Is Pastor Appreciation Month!

Each October, churches across the country take time to celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month—a special time to honor and thank our spiritual leaders for their tireless work and faithful service. Here at St. Marks, we are blessed to have Pastor Dan leading us with love, compassion, wisdom and unwavering commitment.

Pastor Dan and all our church staff pour their hearts into serving both our congregation and the local community. They guide us spiritually, pray for us, offer counsel, and help us grow in faith. Pastor Dan, along with Curyynn, Holly, Kellie, Mandy, James, Kathy, Tina, Linda, Janet, Jerome, Ken, Neil, Elanore and the praise band work hard to share the Gospel, make worship enjoyable and run the church all in beautifully maintained buildings. Because of them St. Marks is a welcoming and supportive place for us to make disciples for Christ.

Through the month of October please take a little time to show your appreciation to Pastor and our entire staff. There are many meaningful ways you and your family can express gratitude. Here are just a few ideas:

Pray for them: Lift up Pastor Dan and the church staff in your daily prayers, asking God to grant them strength, wisdom, and encouragement.

Write a heartfelt note or card: Share how Pastor Dan's leadership or a staff member's support has impacted you personally.

Gift a token of appreciation: Consider a small gift, homemade treat, or gift card as a gesture of thanks.

Offer words of encouragement: Express your appreciation in person, by phone, text or through email.

Volunteer your time: Ask how you can help with church activities or administrative tasks, lightening their workload.

Organize a group effort: Coordinate with your small group, Sunday school class or others to host a special lunch, ice cream treats or crockpot meal to honor Pastor Dan and the staff.

Share your talents: If you sing, bake, craft, or have other skills, offer them in service or as gifts.

Let's make Pastor Appreciation Month a memorable time for Pastor Dan and our church staff. With your kind words, prayers, and thoughtful gestures, we can show them just how much they mean to our church family. Thank you for joining in this celebration and for being a blessing to those who bless us every day!

Thank you!

St. Marks Leadership Team

St Marks Sermon Schedule By Their Fruit

October 19
Faithfulness

October 26
Gentleness

November 2
Self Control

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

The 2025 St Marks Leadership Team

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

Rev. Dan Metzger
Leadership Team Chair – Sherri Frantz
SPRC – Mark Miller
SPRC - Val Milum
Trustee Team – Dan Dehnhoff
Trustee Team – Aaron Johnson
Trustee Team – Matt Fix
Trustee Team – Mike Lee
Finance Team – Jeremy Theiss
Finance Team – Becky Iten
Member - Laura Rhodes
Member – Denise Claflin
Member – Lyndsay Hite

Lay Member to
Annual Conference
– Erma Metzger

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.



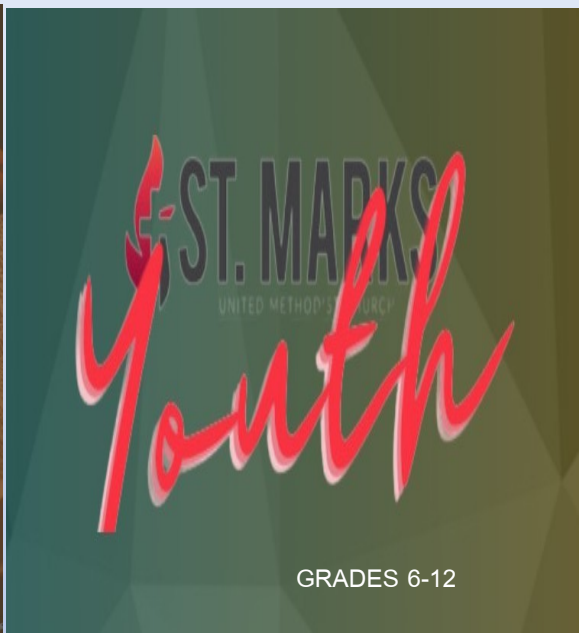
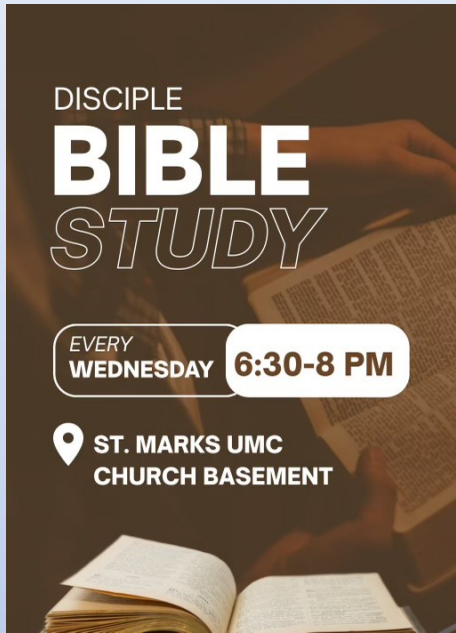
The choir is open to anyone who loves to sing. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM. You can even join just for Christmas.

Contact Kathy Newell for more information.

newellk1950@gmail.com



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

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St Marks October 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...”

**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.

A Farewell PotLuck

Our Director of Contemporary Worship, **James Adkins**, will be moving to Florida at the end of the month. We will have a potluck lunch celebrating him at noon on October 26. Please come and bring a dish to share as we wish him well!



We are also excited to announce that current worship band member **Caitlin Parke** will be our new Director of Contemporary Worship!

Please keep her and our worship team in your prayers during this transition.

Our Charge Conference will be at Arcadia UMC at 6pm on Sunday Nov. 2.

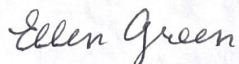
All members are welcome to attend.

We will hear from District Superintendent Amy Haines
as we celebrate the work of our church
and other churches in the Maumee River District.

Dear Pastor Dan, Kellie and Friends at St. Marks,

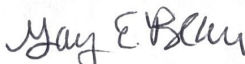
Thank you to everyone at St. Marks who joined us at Howard UMC this year in our new version of the Garden Giveaway Table! It was fun to meet fellow gardeners and share stories and recipes. With the participation of St. Marks, Journey at Christ Church, Zion UMC, and Powell Memorial UMC we were able to offer our neighbors 188 lunches, homemade jams, and over 480 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables. We served an average of 25 guests each of the 6 times we set up the canopy. It was a special opportunity to meet our neighbors and share stories and food, along with God's love. Many of our guests expressed their heartfelt thanks for this unexpected gift that would help them put nutritious food on the table. We at Howard UMC are grateful for everything you did to help make this a successful ministry this season.

Grace and Peace,



Ellen Green

Cherry Street Community Garden Coordinator



Pastor Gay Blau

Howard United Methodist Church

Wanted:

30—2X4's, 6 feet in length or longer.

One of our scouts is building storage racks for the Little Lions Playschool in the St Marks garage. He has been collecting scrap wood for months.

**If you have a donation, leave it next to the garage on Sunday morning, or call Ken Haines and his son to come pick it up.
419-889-0633**

Adult Sunday School Class

Did you know that we have an Adult Sunday School Class that would love to have you join them? This class is led by Chuck & Barbara Bishop and they meet from 10:00-11:00 each Sunday to discuss Pastor Dan's sermon.

All are welcome!

Just stop by the Welcome Center on a Sunday morning after first service and they will show you where to go for class.

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER



Fall CHILI COOK-OFF



Save the Date – Fall Chili Cook-Off!

Mark your calendars for

Sunday, November 9 at 4:30 PM

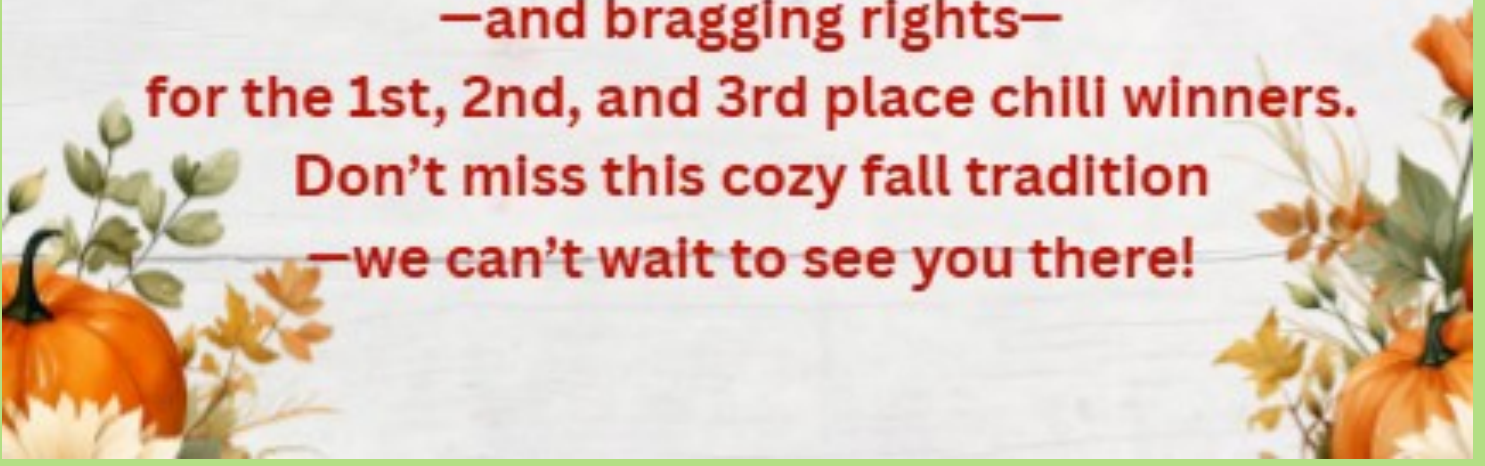
**and bring the whole family to The Dock
for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship!**

**Enjoy a variety of delicious chilis,
connect with others through interactive activities,
and let the kids have fun with games just for them.**

**The night will wrap up with trophies
—and bragging rights—**

for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place chili winners.

**Don't miss this cozy fall tradition
—we can't wait to see you there!**



MAGICAL PROM NIGHT CELEBRATION



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

On November 1st we will open registration on our website! You can get your loved one an invitation and/or become a volunteer. We expect this next party to be even more amazing!

Of course, donations are being accepted to purchase food and fabulous decorations. We also need to purchase 1500 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.

NIGHT TO SHINE PROM DRESS GIVE-AWAY Event is Nov. 8

Help us prepare local special needs women for an unforgettable evening at Night to Shine by donating your prom or Mother-of-the-Bride dresses.

Many of the attendees would like a modest dress. If you have a donation please contact Beth Yoder to arrange to drop it off. 419-957-7164



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



October and November donation requests for the big black barrel

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

Salad dressings:
French
Thousand Island
Italian
Ranch

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.

Memorials for
Judy Whetstone

Steve & Anita Heintzelman
Jack & Sue Cupples
Ruthanne Wohlgamuth
Ken & Amy Haines
Mike Noggle
Joyce Libecape
Charlene Beeler
Bill & Marilyn Snyder
Phil & Patty Lucas

Tom & Carol Hagenmaier
Rob & Patty Strasbaugh
Lori Suter
Renee & Marty Pekar
Steve & Kathy Gase
Mark & Krista Miller
Dan Hogue
Leanna Brooks
Ron & Marita Deatruck

A Memorial for

Carol Litten

from

Nell Fike

A Memorial for

Cassie Ohlrich

from

Kathy Ohlrich





United Women in Faith

FALL 2025



Thank you, families of St Marks for coming out on Wednesday night for our annual Baked Potato (and Tater Tot) Bar Fundraiser. The room was packed and I cannot believe we ate that many tater tots! I noticed the broccoli disappeared pretty quickly, too. Good job, parents, teaching your little ones to make healthy choices.

Saturday, October 14th was the UWF Combined meeting. We were blessed to have occupational therapist Laura Durliat give a program on Fitness for Life. Her talk encouraged questions and sharing of information among the group. Not only did she share ways to get more movement in every day, she passed out exercise bands and demonstrated moves to stretch muscles. Stretching is as important as exercise and Laura instructed us to do it at least twice a day.

After the wonderful program, president Tina Aisel surprised Laura by awarding her the UWF Special Recognition Pin. The pin is awarded once a year to honor a person who is a faithful worker in mission. The ladies of the UWF recognized that Laura serves as liturgist, makes sure we have communion servers, she has served on the leadership board, writes letters thanking people that have given memorials to St Marks, and she helped to hold the Give a Crock program together after the death of Barb Lockard. Congratulations, Laura.



Love to Bake?

Every Sunday, a volunteer bakes 3 dozen cookies that are served in the St Marks Café, Sunday School and at the Gathering.

Maybe you have been lucky enough to eat one? If you would take a turn baking it would be very much appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet in St Marks Café.





CHRISTMAS PLAY INFORMATIONAL MEETING!

When: October 26th between services- 10 am

Where: The Sanctuary

Ages: All kiddos K-12 welcome!

