



# 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.**



# September 2025

Dear Church Family,

This September, we are beginning a brand-new sermon series called By Their Fruit. Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:16, “By their fruit you will recognize them.” In Galatians 5, Paul describes what that fruit looks like: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These aren’t things we simply try harder to produce on our own—they are evidence of the Holy Spirit moving and working in our lives.

Throughout the coming weeks, we’ll explore each fruit of the Spirit and what it looks like when it grows in us as individuals, as families, and as a church community. Alongside the sermons, we will also have opportunities for small groups to dig deeper together, reflecting on how God is bearing fruit in their lives.

Our prayer is that this season will not just shape us inwardly but also move us outwardly. We hope you’ll look for mission opportunities to show evidence of the Spirit’s fruit in your daily life—at home, at work, and in our community. One of the ways you can put your faith into action is by inviting someone you know to Stronger Together: a parent support event for youth mental wellness.

As the school year begins, many families face the challenge of children struggling with anxiety and other mental health concerns. On September 14, we are hosting Stronger Together, a special evening for parents to receive encouragement, practical tips, and guidance. An expert panel—including voices from our local schools and nonprofit organizations—will provide insight, resources, and support. This is a wonderful opportunity to find community and strength for the journey.

There are also ongoing mission opportunities like food collections for City Mission and Give a Crock, and a host of other ways you can serve your church and community. I hope you’re always looking for places in your life where you can make Findlay look a little bit more like the world as it should be, as we are all gardeners restoring the garden back to paradise alongside Jesus.

We invite you to join us in worship, in small groups, and in mission as we grow together in Christ. May this season be one where others can see God’s Spirit at work in us—not because of what we say, but because of the fruit our lives bear.

Blessings,

Pastor Dan

## **St Marks Sermon Schedule**

**By Their Fruit**

**Sept 7**

**Love**

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

**Sept 14**

**Joy**

**Nehemiah 8:9-12**

**Sept 21**

**Peace**

**John 14:25-27, 16:33**

**Sept 28**

**Patience**

**October 5**

**Kindness**

**October 12**

**Goodness**

**October 19**

**Faithfulness**

**October 26**

**Gentleness**

## **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

National Conference

– Erma Metzger

## **American Red Cross Blood Drive at St Marks**

**Thursday, Sept 18, 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](http://redcrossblood.org) to register.




## **The Chancel Choir**

The choir is open to anyone who loves to sing. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM. You can contact Kathy Newell for more information.

[newellk1950@gmail.com](mailto:newellk1950@gmail.com)



## 6:30—8:00 PM

 **ST. MARKS UMC  
CHURCH BASEMENT**

**And for 9 weeks, 4 small groups will discuss Dan's latest sermon series "By Our Fruit." Sign up on St Marks website.**

**GRADES K-5**

# St Marks September Community Outreach

Contact the church office or speak to  
Sandi Helms.

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ST. MARKS

## Welcome Party

Are you new to St. Marks or have you been coming for months but haven't had much time to connect with others? Sign up for our next Welcome Party on Sunday, September 28 from 12:00-1:30. We'll enjoy lunch together, play a get-to-know-each-other game, tour the church and discuss options for you to get connected at St. Marks. Lunch & childcare will be provided.

Please email Mandy Stevens ([mstevens@stmarksfindlay.org](mailto:mstevens@stmarksfindlay.org)) by Monday, September 22 to sign up for the Welcome Party.



## It's Time to Join a Small Group

Small Groups begin this week and there is a spot for you!

These short-term Small Groups meet for 9 weeks to discuss Pastor Dan's Sunday sermons on the Fruit of the Spirit.

You will not want to miss making new friends, going deeper into God's Word, and growing in your faith!

Sign up on our website under the Events tab.



Coffee Time is Back!  
Join us for Coffee Time between services, from 10:00-10:30 in the St. Marks Café in the main church building.



Coffee Time is a casual way to get to know each other – we usually take turns answering some fun get-to-know each other questions while enjoying coffee & pastries. Kids are welcome – they can play in the nursery while we all keep an eye on them from the next room. No sign up needed – just show up on any Sunday morning.

Questions? Chat with Mandy Stevens.

## Monday Bible Study

**starts September 8, 1:30 PM**

**We will be studying the book of Esther**



Any questions :

Leslie Shufelt 419-957-5708

Sherri Frantz 419-348-8185

Tina Miller 419-957-2892

## 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 this Fall...*



## 2025 Church Directory!

- October 9, 10, 11 we will have a professional photographer on site.
- Every person/family that has a portrait session will receive a complimentary church directory AND an 8x10 photo of their choosing.
- These items are free just for giving the photographer an opportunity to sell you more of the photos he/she takes.
- We would like all members and regular attendees to come have a photo session. We want to get to know you by face and by name.
- Members who would like to have a different photo used for the directory may do so. The cost is \$15.00 and they will get a directory.
- If the date of the photo sessions is a problem, the photographer will be in the area at other churches and he/she can make sure your photo gets into our directory.
- Yes, well-behaved pets are welcome to join in the family portrait.
- Sign up online now. Sign up in person on Sundays, Sept 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>
- Any questions can be directed to Tina Aisel or Anita Heintzelman.



# We want YOU in our 2025 Directory

From Tina and Anita

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to get their picture taken for our 2025 Church Directory.  
For those of you who have not signed up....WHY NOT?

A directory is so important for us to get to know one another's names and faces. It doesn't matter if you're a member or not. If you're attending, then we want to get to know you.

The book will also have a roster in the back with only the contact information you want to share. Where else can I find your information if I wanted to send you a text or a card? And rest assured, your picture and information will only be published in the directory, which is only available to people in our church. None of the directory will be online.

Will you be out-of-town or recovering from surgery? Is it just too much trouble?

- ⇒ You can use your picture from the 2022 directory. (Cost \$15 and you get a directory)
- ⇒ You can submit your own photo. (Portrait style, 300 dpi) (Cost \$15 and you get the directory)
- ⇒ You don't want your photo in the directory? Can we at least put you in the roster?  
What information? Let me know.

Give Tina a call or text (419-422-4236 or [taisel@stmarksfindlay.org](mailto:taisel@stmarksfindlay.org))  
to schedule or to change your appointment time or answer any questions you might have.

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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*

Ellen Green

Cherry Street Community Garden Coordinator

*May E. Blau*

Pastor Gay Blau

Howard United Methodist Church

## It's Small Group Time!

Small Groups are launching soon, and we couldn't be more excited! These gatherings are the heartbeat of our church community - a place to grow in faith, build lasting friendships, and do life together.

Whether you're looking to lead a group or join one, there's a spot for you. Small Groups are flexible - they can meet in homes, at coffee shops or even the church. They can welcome kiddos or be for adults only. Beginning the week after Labor Day, Small Groups will meet for just 9 weeks – which is the perfect length of time to try it out to see it's for you! Your group can meet every week or every other week for those 9 weeks, whatever works best. During that time, your group will have a simple Bible study to work through together that goes along with Pastor Dan's sermon series during that time – The Fruit of the Spirit.

No matter your stage of life or spiritual journey, Small Groups are where big transformation happens in a small setting. Come be part of something meaningful!

Sign up at [StMarksFindlay.org/Events](http://StMarksFindlay.org/Events).



Do you seek -

Spiritual Renewal

New understanding of God's grace and love?

Worship and community with other believers?

Then the Walk to Emmaus might 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

Understand Christian love in action



There will be an Emmaus Women's Walk  
October 16—19th

If you are interested in attending please contact Sheri Frantz or Beth Yoder.



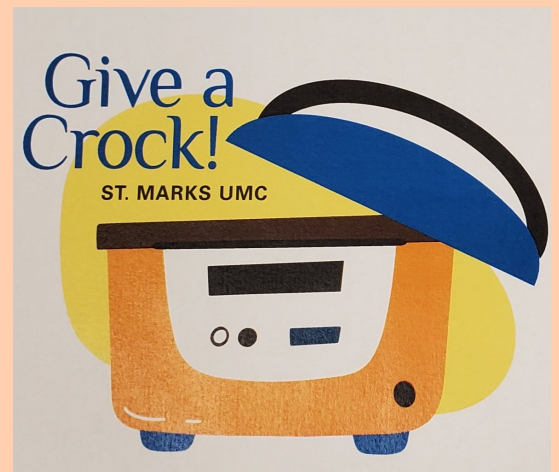
The recipe for September is **Hearty Bean Chili**

Ingredients needed by Sept. 22nd.

- 15.5 oz cans of beans (kidney, black or pinto)
  - 15 oz cans corn
  - Vegetable Broth
- 14.5 oz cans of diced tomatoes

The bags will be filled this month by the Youth Group.

The recipe for October is Italian Sausage and Pasta



### September and October donation requests for the big black barrel

Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels  
Napkins  
Lysol Wipes  
Bleach

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

### **GRIEF SHARE NEWS**



The current 13 week session of GriefShare began Wednesday, August 20. It is not too late to join. 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.

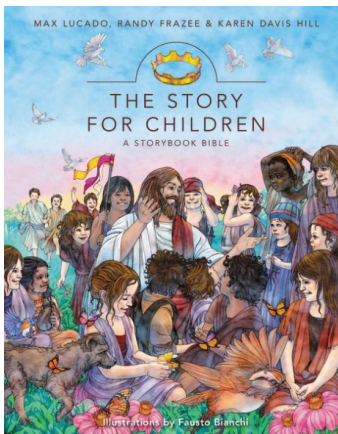
Share this information with a friend or family member who may benefit from the class. Class members do not need to be St Marks members. This is a unique outreach program offered by St Marks.

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.

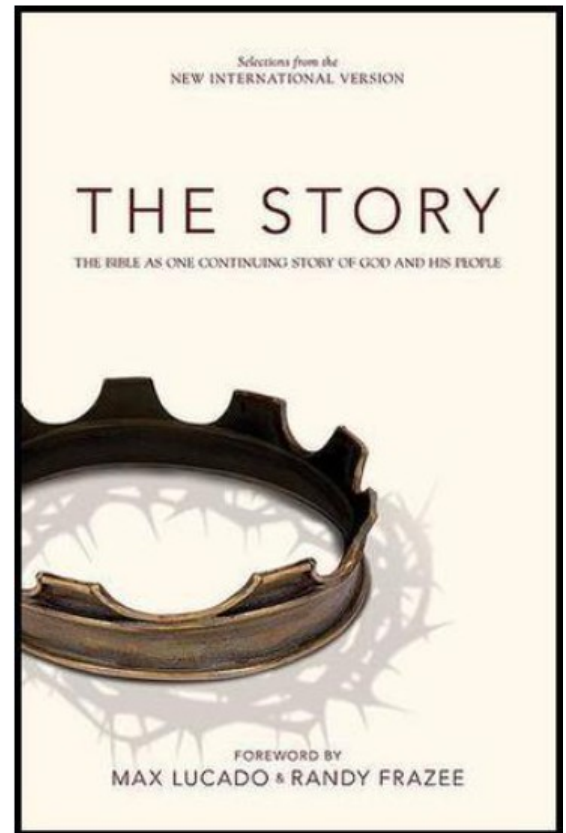
## Love to Read?

Did you know that we have a Library in the main church building with some amazing resources to help us study the Bible and live the life Jesus calls us to? One of our current favorites that is a must-read is: *The Story*. *The Story* is an easy-to-read version of the story of God's people and how God goes to great lengths to rescue lost and hurting people.

Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, *The Story* sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation and allows the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. Like any good story, *The Story* is filled with intrigue, drama, conflict, romance, and redemption—and this story is true!



We also have *The Story for Children* available in the library that your kiddos will love!



Stop by the Library soon to check out *The Story* or one of our other great books to read at home. Questions? Contact Mandy Stevens –

[mstevens@stmarksfindlay.org](mailto:mstevens@stmarksfindlay.org).

Are you looking for a  
Christian-based pre-school  
that your family  
will fall in love with?



At Little Lions Playschool, we nurture young children through play-based, hands-on experiences that spark curiosity and build confidence. Our caring environment supports each child's growth and helps prepare them for kindergarten and beyond. We are a half day program that runs through the school year.

Must be 3 by August 1st and potty trained. We offer two 3 year old classes. Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-11:30. Tuesday and Thursday from 9-11:30.

We also have two 4 year old classes. Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30-12. (With a fourth day option on Tuesday) Five days Monday-Friday from 9-11:30.





Photos provided by Findlay Rotary Club  
**Rotarian Jeff Shrader and Rotarian Sue Lehman present award to Pastor Dan Metzger.**



## **Rotary Club Presents Award**

August 30, 2025

By Elizabeth Clauss  
 The Courier Newspaper

Findlay – The Findlay Rotary Club presented the Service Above Self Award to Rev. Dan Metzger during the club’s meeting on Wednesday.

Presented to Metzger by Rotarians Jeff Schrader and Sue Lehman, the Service Above Self Award is presented annually to a non-rotarian in the community who displays The Rotary ideals of professional leadership and service. Rotarian Mark Miller nominated Metzger, a pastor at St Marks UMC for the award.

“While Dan is and outstanding pastor at St Marks Church, he goes beyond typical pastoral duties and has demonstrated extraordinary service to the Findlay/Hancock County Community,” Miller wrote and stated in a release from the club.

Metzger’s listed accomplishments included organizing a Thanksgiving meal for teachers and students at Bigelow Elementary School, bringing the Night to Shine event to the community and to St Marks as well as arranging for former University of Findlay (UF) Head Football Coach and current Ohio State University Assistant Coach Rob Keys to speak at a Community Good Friday Breakfast. Additionally, he has assisted in reorganizing the communities involvement with the National Day of Prayer, and has been instrumental in the success of Second Chance Day.

Rotarian Puck Rowe submitted a letter of support for Metzger’s nomination with Rotarian Carla Benjamin seconding the notions.

Memorials for

**Carol Litten**

Nancy Launder  
Linda Whetstone  
Judy Whetstone  
and  
Shirlee Whitson

A Memorial for

**Shawn Spencer**

From  
Brent Dacre  
c/o  
Memorial H.S. Alumni  
Foundation

A Memorial for

**Dale Howard**

From  
Mike Noggle

A Memorial for

**Larry & Linda Oman**

From  
Gregory & Kathy Oman

Memorials for  
**Cassie Ohlrich**

Cynthia Geary  
Robert Sarlls  
Jeff & Elsa Shrader  
Betty Watson  
Michael & Rhonda Nye  
Kim Peplinski  
William & Linda Shultz  
Doug & Lu Bannerman  
Cheryl Mace

Linda Goodman  
Kelly Eberflus  
April Budzinski  
George & Pam Spratt  
Kurt & Cassie Ohlrich  
James & Connie  
Hutchinson  
The Mennel Milling Co.  
Don & Betty Kitchen

Cynthia Thomas  
Kevin & Jill Reiter  
Resolute Wealth Advisor  
Commerce Bank  
John & Jeanette Kartley  
Phil & Joyce Kortokrax  
Kim Hiett  
Bill & Hope McCleave  
John & Erica Kelley



**ST. MARKS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**2025 FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF 8/31/2025**

<b>1. 2025 ACTUAL GENERAL GIVING VERSUS 2025 GENERAL ACTUAL EXPENSES</b>
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	Year To Date  <u>8/31/2025</u>
Actual General Giving Received through 8/31/2025	\$434,628
Actual General Expenses Paid through 08/31/2025	<u>(\$374,211)</u>
Subtotal YTD Actual General Giving More Than Actual General Expenses Paid through 8/31/2025	\$60,417
 <b>NOTE: In Order to Meet Our 2025 100% Apportionments Commitment, St. Marks UMC Needs to Pay \$24,400 by 12/31/2025.</b>	 <u>(\$21,299)</u>
YTD Actual General Giving More than Actual General Expenses Paid through 8/31/2025	<u>\$39,118</u>

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

**The average weekly General giving through 8/31/2025 was \$12,418. This was over by \$631 as of 8/31/2025.**

**\* Total 2025 West Ohio Conference & Maumee River District Apportionments Commitments at 100% is \$58,299. We have paid 58% of the \$58,299 towards our West Ohio Conference & Maumee River District Apportionments (\$21,299 from General Fund & \$12,600 from Missions Fund. Total Paid \$33,899), so our unpaid Apportionment balance as of 08/31/2025 is \$24,400.**

<b>2. 2025 ACTUAL MISSION GIVING VERSUS 2025 MISSION BUDGET NEEDS</b>
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	Year To Date  <u>8/31/2025</u>
Actual Mission Giving Received through 8/31/2025	\$23,111
Mission Giving Required for 2025 Mission Budget Needs through 8/31/2025	<u>\$18,830</u>
YTD Actual Mission Giving More Than 2025 Mission Budget Needs	<u>\$4,281</u>

**Total 2025 Mission Budget is \$28,000. \$538 is needed weekly and \$7,000 is needed per quarter.**

**Payments: Q1 \$8,000, Q2 \$8,800. Total Paid Year to Date: \$16,800.**

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!**