

ST. MARKS CHURCH - FINDLAY, OHIO

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



A Letter From The Pastor

Dear church family,

One of the ways we want to Move the Needle in our community is in the area of mental health. Along with partnering with our community in the Make It Awkward suicide awareness campaign, we have some exciting opportunities here at the church!

This September, we're starting a new sermon series called "Let's Talk About It," focusing on mental health and faith. We'll talk honestly about anxiety and depression and the hope and help available to us.

Then, on September 27, we'll welcome John James, co-founder and original lead singer of the Newsboys. John will preach that morning and share his story and message about the God of the second chance.

That evening at 7:00 p.m., John will be at Winebrenner Auditorium for a free community event. We hope you'll join us - and invite someone who may need to hear this message of hope, grace, and second chances.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan

**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

 **ST. MARKS**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Gather - find your people!

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

September 6

*The Power of Praying for
One Another*
James 5:13-16

September 13

Anxiety
Luke 10:38-42

September 20

Depression
Psalm 13:1-6

September 27

God of the Second Chance
w/ John James

Tea for Three

Looking for a way to get to know more of your church family, just a couple people at a time? Join Mandy and one additional person for a one hour "Tea for Three" at Swan House Tea Room.

Visit the Events tab on our website: stmarksfindlay.org to sign up!

Gather & Go Lunch

Join us for a new monthly opportunity to **GATHER** - to find your people - and **GO** - to live your faith - *at the same time!*

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 4 from 12:00-1:00. We'll enjoy a simple pizza lunch together in The Dock before sorting donations for the Little Free Pantries. No need to sign up or bring anything - just show up.

GriefShare

The 13 week session of GriefShare began Wednesday, Aug. 19 and is on Wednesdays through November 11. It is not too late to join this session.

The class is offered at 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM.

The content is the same both times, so choose the time 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.

The class is nondenominational and open to any adult grieving the loss of a family member or friend.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may benefit from the class. Class members do not need to be members of 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.

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 Women's Walk on October 15-18, 2026 and the Men's Walk on November 12-15, 2026

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.

Women's Bible Study

The Monday gathering of women for Bible study will start up again on Monday, September 28, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The reading material will have been chosen by then.

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 Ministry in the Church

GO

Live your faith
inside the
church.

Find Your
Ministry

Children's Ministry

Ready to make a difference for the next generation? Children's Ministry needs you!

Current Needs:

- Backstage Kids Leader
- Nursery Volunteer
- Spark Kids Assistant

Talk with Curynn DeWitt -
cdewitt@stmarksfindlay.org for
more info.

Hospitality

Can you smile and wave? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you!

We'd love to have you join our greeting team. Greeters & Welcome Center Hosts are needed for second service.

Talk with Mandy Stevens for more info:
mstevens@stmarksfindlay.org

Multimedia

Put your tech skills to use on our Media Team!

Current opportunities include operators for the:

- Sound board
- Multimedia livestream
- Video camera
- Lighting board

As well as programmers for the multimedia livestream.

Contact Bruce Beck for more
info: brucevonbeck@gmail.com

Worship Band Members

Can you:

- Sing?
- Play an instrument?

Our Worship Band could use your skills during our 10:45 service!

You don't need to volunteer every Sunday - just when you can!

Contact Caitlin Parke for more
info: caitlin.parke93@gmail.com

Go - find Your Mission in the community!

GO

Food Insecurity

Give a Crock Donations

The recipe for September is turkey taco soup. We need:

- Cans of pinto or kidney beans 15-15 1/2 oz
- Cans of corn 15.25 oz
- Cans of Rotel 10 oz
- 15 oz cans of diced tomatoes 14.5 oz
- Taco packet seasoning
- Ranch dressing packets
- Donation \$10-12

Please drop items in the Give a Crock tote in the lobby by September 20.

Little Free Pantry Donations

Drop off items in the Dock or the Church Lobby by Sept. 27

Spaghetti	Mac and Cheese	Minute Rice
Spaghetti Sauce	Elbow Macaroni	Juice

City Mission Donation Requests for September

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • Instant Mashed Potatoes | • Boxed Stuffing Mixes |
| • Canned Green Beans | • Gravy Mixes |
| • Cream of Mushroom Soup | • Fried Onions |

Education

Pages & Pals

Thank you for partnering with us to Move the Needle in Education! If you'd like to financially support this mission to help offset the cost of the books each child goes home with, please mark "Pages & Pals" on your offering envelope.

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!

GO

Mental + Physical Health

An Evening with John James

Join us September 27 at 7:00pm at Winebrenner Auditorium for an Evening with John James, co-founder and original lead singer of the Christian band, The Newsboys. As part of our "Make it Awkward" Suicide Prevention Campaign, John will be sharing his message - "God of the second chance." This is a free event and open to the community, so please invite your friends + family!

Make it Awkward T-Shirts

If you're interested in purchasing a Make it Awkward T-shirt, please visit www.makeitawkward.org or www.stmarksfindlay.org/events.

American Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Marks

Thursday, September 17th - 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sign up to donate at redcrossblood.org

Housing

Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help us side a home for the Melick Family. Also thanks to everyone who helped provide hospitality and to Lisa and Doug Hague who served meals to the volunteers from their Wailing Onion Food Truck.



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Children's & Youth Ministry

CHILDREN'S
& YOUTH
MINISTRY

Spark Kids for Grades K-5!

We are so excited to start Spark Kids back up on Sept 2nd in the DOCK! We meet every Wednesday from 6:30-8pm for games, snack and fellowship!

Our hope is that Spark Kids will be a place where children can grow in their faith, build meaningful friendships, and discover what it means to let their light shine for Jesus.

Youth Fellowship

Middle and High School students meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Cafe on the second floor.

Youth Group

Wednesday Nights 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

- 6:30 - Hang time
- 6:45 - Group time
- 7:00 - Game time
- 7:15 - Devotion time
- 7:30 - Small Group time
- 7:45 - Prayer and Announcements
- 8:00 - See ya next time!

Join our: St Marks Youth Fall Camp Out

Overnight, September 26-27 at the Metzger Farm!
Bonfire, Worship, Games, Camping, Fellowship, Food and Fun.
Register at www.stmarksfindlay.org/events

Staff Spotlight



We're excited to welcome Caden to the St. Marks staff as our new part-time Technology & Audiovisual Director!

Caden earned his bachelor's degree in Commercial Music from Tiffin University. He discovered a love for music during COVID when he picked up the bass guitar - and quickly fell in love with it. His background in music and technology makes him a great addition to our team as he helps support the audio, video, and technology that make our worship services and ministries possible.

Caden lives in Tiffin, and when he's not working with technology or making music, he enjoys reading, going to the movies, and spending time with his goldendoodle, Willow.

Be sure to say hi when you see him!

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

In the Know

Financial Update: July 2026

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." — 2 Corinthians 9:7

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	\$ 394,748	\$ 370,125
Ministry Operating Expenses	\$ (338,675)	\$ (334,124)
Apportionments Paid	\$ (21,716)	\$ (36,001)
General Net Financial Position	\$ 34,357	\$ -
Mission Giving	\$ 18,483	\$ 15,064
Local Missions Supported	\$ (2,900)	\$ -
Apportionments Paid	\$ (11,900)	\$ (15,064)
Missions Net Financial Position	\$ 3,683	\$ -

Apportionments Paid: We have paid 54% of our conference apportionment payments totaling \$33,616. This is \$21,716 from the General fund and \$11,900 from Missions. Our full year apportionment commitment is \$61,716.

Note from the Finance Committee: Thank you for your incredible stewardship! Meeting our financial goals allows our church to focus entirely on what matters most: growing our discipleship, expanding our local outreach, and maintaining our church. Thank you for your continued dedication and faith as we "Move the Needle".