



SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S

December 2018

The Mission of St. Mark's United Methodist Church is to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

A dvent and Christmas

at

St. Mark's



Calm and Bright :

200 Years of Silent Night

December 2 - 30

A dvent—Christmas Sunday Worship Series



In honor of the 200th birthday of the beloved Christmas Carol, *Silent Night*



December 2, 4—7 pm

A dvent Celebration

4pm—A dvent wreath making

5pm—potluck

(bring a main or side dish.

Dessert is furnished)

Program afterwards



December 16 9:30 am
St. Mark's Christmas Cantata

Silent Night!
Holy Night!

Christmas Eve Services

4 pm

50-Minute Family Service
for all ages

Carols & Candlelight

11 pm

Traditional Lessons & Carols
Chancel Choir & Candlelight



Dear St. Mark's Church family,

A blessed Advent to you and yours! I am thrilled to spend my first Advent and Christmas as your pastor. I trust these last six months have been a time of spiritual growth for you as much as they have been for me. As we move forward, I believe we are beginning to live as a church that truly believes in the Promise Fulfilled. We are beginning to fear less and believe more. We are having good, fun times together. We are beginning to comprehend what the angels said: "For unto you is born this day...a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." This is good news! Hallelujah!

Advent and Christmas will be extra special this year as we join other churches across the country and world in commemorating the 200th birthday of the beloved carol, "Silent Night." From the website bearing its name, we read:

"For centuries, the song has crossed borders and overcome crises. It connects people no matter their origin, age or [even] religion, and provides a link back to the time during which it was created. 200 years ago, Joseph Mohr, a priest from Salzburg, and Franz Xaver Gruber, a teacher from Upper Austria, sang the song for the very first time at the St. Nikola Church in Oberndorf near Salzburg. The original poem was authored by Joseph Mohr, whereas Franz Xaver Gruber added the melody on his request. Only a few years later, singing families from the Zillertal valley carried the song from Austria into Europe and the rest of the world. Today, the song is performed in over 300 languages and dialects."

I would be hard-pressed to think of a song more beloved than "Silent Night." So, in honor of this anniversary, our theme for Advent and Christmas this year is "Calm and Bright, and will be based on the carol's words and music. With a star as our focus, our worship and sermons will be based on this theme.

Plus, in keeping with this same theme, on December 16 our choir will be presenting the cantata, "Silent Night! Holy Night!" by Russell Mauldin.

The year 2018 has brought me a new community, a new church, and new friends. This has been a good **new beginning** for both Linda and myself. I look forward to spending this new beginning by honoring the 200th birthday of this old, beloved carol with you.

If you haven't worshipped with your church family for a while, I pray that you will join us this Advent. I am always ready to meet more new friends.

You pastor and friend,

Rev. Joseph M. Payne

<https://www.stillenacht.com/en/>





Administrative Committees

Nominations and Leadership Development

Pastor	Joe Payne
Lay Leader	Sue Luken
2019	Ruth Ritenbaugh, Gail Hartwig
2020	Jim Beckett, Debbie Bryant
2021	Mary Pierson, Jim Jones

Staff / Parish Relations

2019	Beth Ewald, Jerry Hartwig
2020	Erin Theodor (Chairperson), Kym Nguyen
2021	Kristy Theiss, Jenni Hensler

Finance

2019	Tim Mislansky (Chair), Doug Ewald, Tom Tierney
2020	Jennifer Rinker, Janice Chaney, Bud Aydlett
2021	Gale Goodman, Cheryl Creach

Trustees

2019	Don Stewart, Don Menke, Shirlene Norris
2020	Don Hegner, George Peters, Lee Brinkmeyer
2021	Jeff Gering, Marilyn Stewart

Administrative Council

Pastor	Joe Payne
Chairperson	Ray Smith
Lay Leader and Lay Member Annual Conf.	Sue Luken

Nurture Ministries

Dir. Children / Family Min.	Peggy Smith
Family Ministry	Jennifer Marshall
Nurture and Care	Pam Guynes

Outreach Ministries

St. Mark's Cares Chairpersons	Karen Smith, Julie Mislansky
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Administrative Support

SPRC Chairperson	Erin Theodor
Finance Chairperson	Tim Mislansky
Trustee Representative	TBD

Members At Large

2019	Julie Dichtl
2020	Charlotte Tierney
2021	Steve Nguyen



WELCOME

**Sunday, November 4th was a special day at St. Mark's -
Remember, Receive, Renew, Reignite**

New Professing Members are:

Shane Becker - Graduated from Miami with a BS in Exercise Science & UC with an Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapy Assisting. He has been a Home Health Physical Therapist for Physician's Choice Home Health since 2014. Likes Working Out & Cleveland Browns.

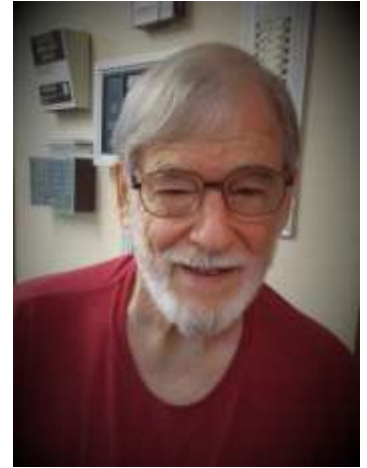
Brooke Becker - Graduated from Miami with a BS in Education and from Xavier with a Master's in Educational Administration. She has been a 2nd grade teacher at Taylor Elementary in the Northwest Local School District since 2004. Brooke is a Thirty-One Gifts Consultant and a Hallmark Store Associate. Likes Family time, reading, & shopping.



Pam Finfrock - Pam sings in the choir. She is retired and volunteers at the Animal Shelter. Loves to garden.



Greg Pullem - Greg is retired and lives at Parkside Community. He was married on Oct. 13th to Charlene Sims. Greg is a regular attender of the Tuesday Morning Bible Study.



Wes Flannery - Transferred from Ross UMC. Wes is retired. Sings in the choir.

Debbie Flannery - Transferred from Ross UMC. Debbie is retired. Sings in the choir and she is a quilter.



New Baptized Members
(Pictures of Owen and Alice page 4)

are:
are with the family photo on

Owen Michael Becker - He is 7 yrs old and a 1st grader at Sacred Heart. Likes flag football, all things Pokemon & Legos.

Alice Grace Becker - Alice will be 2 yrs old on Feb. 22 and attends Kids R' Kids for Daycare. Likes animals, singing, dancing & cleaning up.

In Memoriam

**We remembered those of our St. Mark's family
who passed away in the past year.**

Marilouise Carr
Rosalie Morris
Lindsay Hungler
Eleanor Fitzpatrick

Albert Miller
Rita Johnson
Fred Winkler
Jean Cress

Gracie Goebel
Jerry Hughes
Albert Fenzel
Charles Jeffers



**SENIOR'S CHRISTMAS
POT-LUCK LUNCHEON**

**Saturday, December 8
1 pm in Fellowship Hall**

Bring a covered dish.

**There will be good food, games and lots of
fellowship.**

ALL SENIORS WELCOME



CHURCH CHRISTMAS POSTOFFICE

The mailboxes are set in the church Narthex for you to bring cards to your St. Mark's family. A basket will be available for giving donations to the Youth Fund.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is incorrect,
please contact the church office (513-844-1818)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Paul Schutte
- 3 - Phyllis Tunning
- 4 - Tari Wolf
- 6 - Bob Mendenhall
- 8 - Charles Bryant
- 8 - Cheryl Creach
- 9 - Michele Leyrer
- 10 - Cory Stewart
- 14 - Ben Gallihugh
- 14 - Flo Moore
- 14 - Jennifer Rinker
- 14 - Joyce Zugelter
- 17 - Glenn Mason
- 17 - Linda Prohaska
- 18 - Rick Broshear
- 19 - Cody Sines (Age 14)
- 20 - James Kuertz
- 21 - Pam Finfrock
- 22 - Bob Janosik
- 23 - James Omer Sanan (Age 5)
- 24 - Charlene Miller
- 27 - Cindy Brown
- 27 - Nancy Bumpus
- 29 - John Best
- 29 - Pat Sena
- 29 - Tom Tierney
- 30 - Ira Begley
- 30 - Katie Luken



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

- 8 - Chuck & Karen Hungler
- 14 - Bud & Shirley Aydlett
- 27 - George & Belinda Peters
- 28 - Marty & Gay Kubik
- 29 - Tom & Charlotte Tierney



Thanks to the Ruth Circle

The October Walk for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) was successful and a big thank you goes to St. Mark's Ruth Circle for being a sponsor once again this year. This is the only fundraiser for the entire year and \$63,000 was raised with over 450 walkers participating. NAMI's mission is to assist families who have a loved one with a mental illness, including ADHD, depression, anxiety, PTSD, bipolar, or schizophrenia. Free-of-charge classes are offered to family members and presentations are made at schools, churches, universities, the Butler County Police Academy, and health fairs. Thank you again, Ruth Circle, for your support each year.

NAMI

ST. MARK'S ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18, 2018 at 4:00 pm

St. Mark's annual Church Conference was held in the sanctuary and led by the Rev. Dave Mack. The Conference began with singing and prayer. Reports by our ministry & administrative teams were then shared.

St. Marks Cares, Karen Smith and Julie Mislansky

Julie and Karen thanked the members of the committee for their outstanding work and dedication, and reported the following accomplishments:

\$12,000 to the 10 organizations and missionaries that we support, almost \$700 more than our giving in 2017.

\$4,565 to UMCOR in monetary donations and flood buckets.

Over 113 individuals participated in some mission outreach opportunity in 2018, many serving more than once

The seven organizations we support are: The Broken Bus, The Caring Closet, Serve City, Living Waters Ministries, Salvation Army, Fairfield Food Pantry, and Matthew 25 Ministries.

The three missionaries we currently support are Christy and Jose Luis Sanchez in Mexico, Brian and Tara Vinson, Methodist ministers in Africa and The Jubilee Project in greater Cincinnati.

Goals for 2019 include continuing our support of the missions mentioned above. Good Neighbor Sunday is set for May 5th, and a mission trip will be planned. New ideas for 2019 include offering love and care to the community at the trailer park off of River Road, starting a Whiz Kids tutoring program for a Fairfield elementary, a joint event with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters, taking meals to the homebound and others in need, finding a way to better support the NA group that meets at St. Marks and helping to serve the needs of the residents of Parkside Nursing Center.

Children and Family Ministries, Peggy Smith

Peggy invited everyone to an "Advent Wreath Making" event on Dec. 2nd at 4:00. This is a church-wide event for all ages where we will make advent wreaths to take home, share a potluck dinner and a program. Peggy also shared that she will be forming a Visioning team for children and family ministries in 2019.

Trustees, Ray Smith

Ray recognized and thanked the members of the committee. Goals for 2019 include upgrading to LED lighting throughout the church, continuing to address security issues within the church and the parking lot, and making repairs to the parking lot and sidewalks. Saturday work parties will also continue.

Staff/Parish Relations Committee, Erin Theodor

Brenda Smoot has been hired as Administrative Assistant, Peggy Smith as Director of Children and Family Ministries and the position of Youth Director has recently been advertised.

Erin submitted a recommendation from SPRC for Pastoral Compensation in the amount of \$55,092 for cash compensation (this includes a 1% cost of living increase), \$18,000 for a housing allowance (no increase) and \$6,000 for accountable reimbursement (no increase). Motion passed.

Nominations and Leadership Development, Pastor Joe

The 2019 leadership roster and nominations were presented by Pastor Joe. All members of the slate were elected.

Membership, Pastor Joe

Pastor Joe has gathered a task force to assist in compiling an audit of our membership, both active and inactive. The plan is to contact all inactive members and encourage them to return to regular attendance as growing disciples of Jesus Christ. We currently have 290 professing members, with an average Sunday attendance of 135.

Finance, Tim Mislansky

Tim thanked the members of the committee. He also gave a special thanks to Ruth Ritenbaugh for her hard work and dedication and those helping her; Brenda Smoot, Cheryl Creach and Gail Hartwig. He reported that giving in 2018 was down about \$30,000 from last year. Positives he shared as we move towards a new year: we are one check away from paying all 2018 conference and district apportionments and the number of giving pledge cards is up by 39 cards and \$64,200 from last year. The 2019 budget process is underway. All committees and leaders were asked to share their hopes and dreams and the current number reflecting that is at \$450,000 so it will require some adjusting. Tim also reminded the congregation that there is a finance report in a narrative form in the monthly newsletters and the finance committee (and several others) are posting their meeting minutes on the bulletin board by the kitchen.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT



Greeting St. Mark's Family,

Total giving for the month of October was about \$26,600. Total expenses for the month were about \$22,700. There were no abnormal expenses during the month. Our cash position continues to be very low.

Once again, we paid our monthly amount for both conference and district apportionments and continue to be on track to pay our full apportionments for the year. As of November 12th, we have paid all but \$3,500 towards our \$48,000 total for 2018. We will make our final payment in December.

We continue to make payments on our two loans. We now owe the bank \$12,700 on the line of credit and about \$70,600 on the loan against the church building.

And finally, we have about \$6,300 towards the parking lot repair. This is part of the special fundraising request of \$35,000 to repair the sinkhole in the parking lot and provide funds for additional lighting in the parking lot for safety. We continue to ask that you prayerfully consider contributing to this special fund.

The finance committee continues to work on the 2019 budget. We invited staff and committee leaders to submit requests to be inclusive all the groups and ministries of the church. Our process focuses on us helping the church meet its mission statement, which is:

The Mission of St. Mark's United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.... A world of justice, love, and peace filled with people growing in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Consecration Sunday resulted in 67 pledge cards for total pledges of \$225,200. This compares favorably to 2017, when we only received 39 pledge cards for \$161,000. We expect to receive more pledge cards before the end of this year, and are hopeful this will result in increased giving for next year.

	2018	2017	Change
Pledges	\$225,200	\$161,000	\$64,200
Pledge Cards	67	39	28

A summary of giving in 2018 compared to 2017 is on the following page:

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10.)

Monthly Summary of Giving / Receipts		
	2018	2017
January	\$25,287	\$28,905 **
February	\$21,691	\$25,288
March	\$25,717	\$20,840
April	\$27,313 **	\$35,049 **
May	\$18,736	\$24,234
June	\$22,072	\$24,405
July	\$35,014 **	\$29,501 **
August	\$22,898	\$31,377
September	\$23,552 **	\$21,588
October	\$26,595	\$32,507 **
November		\$25,490
December		\$38,540 **
** = a 5 Sunday month		

Weekly Average	\$5,788	\$6,220
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Should you have questions about St. Mark's finances, please do not hesitate to ask me at church or to email me at tmislansky@fuse.net or call me at 513-759-0581.

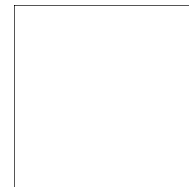
Thank you,

Tim Mislansky



St. Mark's United Methodist Church

4601 Fairfield Avenue
Fairfield, OH 45014



St. Mark's Staff

Pastor, Rev. Joseph M. Payne -
Joe's cell #614-531-2373
Pastor Emeritus, Bob Klingel
Admin. Assistant, Brenda Smoot
Director of Music, Chris Beiser
Organist, Sue Combs
Director of Children & Family Ministries, Peggy Smith
Nursery Director, Lauren Dichtl

Church Office Hours :

Monday — Thursday
9:00 - Noon, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Friday - Office Closed

(513) 844-1818
Fax: (513) 844-2828
fairfieldstmarks.com

Worship Service:
Sundays 9:30 am