



# SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S

## May 2019

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



**Great Job, Church!**

On behalf of the Ladies Monday Craft group, thanks to everyone that came to the luncheon, donated salads, donated books and worked the day of the event.

**\$2,008.05 was made  
and will go to the  
Parking Lot Fund.**

**WooHoo!**



**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY  
May 19**

## OHIO RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT SPRING CELEBRATION

**Sunday, May 19 - 3 pm at St. Mark's**

This celebration is for all clergy and lay persons in the Ohio River Valley District.

The celebration will consist of recognition of retiring clergy, candidates being ordained and commissioned, transitioning pastors, and new pastors to our district.

St. Mark's is honored to be hosting this District Spring Celebration.

Everyone is invited to attend.



My dear St. Mark's Church family,

Linda and I cannot ever thank you or repay you for being the most caring church around. We have felt your love, understanding, and support since the passing of our son, Jonathan. You have shown us your love in many ways: through your Facebook comments and posts, your cards, memorial service, and the wonderful fellowship meal (and leftovers!). The love offering you gave us was an unexpected godsend. This more than helped in the cremation expense. Again, we never expected this, but we are so grateful. Thank you.

I also am certain you know that losing a son or daughter is not something one gets over quickly, or ever. Linda and I are faced with a loss that is almost too painful to bear at times. Our pain comes and goes. It dissipates for a while, and then comes back. Along with that pain come throes of regret, guilt, and an emptiness that is difficult to describe. Linda and I intend to find a support group and will seek all possible resources to aid us. In the meantime, I covet your continued understanding and patience as I work my way back to being your pastor. I am grateful for the support of District Superintendent Todd Anderson, as well as the St. Mark's leadership in extending some leave from the pulpit. At the present, the pain is more than I can handle in being able to be at the pulpit for you, or even being present to worship with you. I will, however, be available for anything else, including pastoral care. I will be back with you on June 2.

This brings to mind a fallacy that is all too common, and one that I will seek to dispel. I know that some may assume that those with a deep and abiding faith in God experience less pain and grief in the loss of a loved one than those with no faith. I know first-hand that this is not true. No matter our faith, we still cry real tears over not seeing our son ever again on this earth. If we were to somehow remain stoic over this, there would be something wrong with us. I guess the one good that may come from this is a deepening empathy for others experiencing loss.

One final thought: While I know the loss of our son is not something I will ever "get over," and while I know I will never be quite the same "Joe Payne" as I was leading up to Easter, 2019, and while I know that right now I am not "emotionally healthy"....

I still have hope.

I have hope that there will come a day when I will emerge from this an even better pastor than before. Better in terms of understanding what is truly important and what it means to be The Church. I also have hope that St. Mark's will emerge from this an even better church than before.

It's going to take time. Please have patience with me. Have patience with yourselves, too. We will get through this. Together.

With an ever-deepening love for MY CHURCH, I am  
Gratefully yours,

Pastor Joe

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PS. I have much, much more to share, about Jonathan, our lives, our Church, our future. Those posts will come, in due season. Blessings.

# St. Mark's Finance Report

Greeting St. Mark's Family.

We have much to be thankful for as March was a solid month for your church's finances. Your generosity and sharing of your resources with St. Mark's is appreciated. Here's the story. Total receipts from giving and the rental house were \$28,300. Year-to-date giving is \$82,500 compared to \$72,700 during the first three months of last year. That's a nice 13% increase. After the end of the first quarter, our pledges are also right on track. One concern is that giving is running about \$2,500 behind our budget needs each month.

Total expenses for March were \$28,000 and there were no unusual expenses. Our expenses did include March's payment of both district and conference apportionments. Total expenses for the year are around \$2,500 less than our budget so our spending is certainly under control. We also made our loan payments and the total debt of the church is just under \$78,000. Each month we make payments of about \$1,275 for principal and interest payments.

Another key item is that the parking lot fund now sits at nearly \$10,000 – which is enough to repair the sinkhole. However, we are hopeful to get to \$35,000. This will allow us to considerably improve the safety of our facility to include sinkhole repair, parking lot re-pavement and additional lightening in the parking. Please consider contributing to this important effort. All-in-all, lots of good news to share. The only item of concern is that our cash position remains very tight.

At the end of each month, we are actually a bit short on money. This means we essentially borrow from ourselves to pay all the bills. In other words, if we do not have enough cash to pay out all the designated funds. At the end of March, this so-called borrowing was \$5,000. We generally make it up after the next Sunday, but it's a delicate balancing act and one we hope to get ahead of soon.

One way you can help with giving is to consider signing up for electronic giving. The benefit to St. Mark's for this is that it brings more consistency to our giving for the month. In a typically month, about 45% of the money comes in the first week, 25% the second week and 15% the third and fourth weeks. This makes planning for expenses harder. Today, nearly \$1 out of every \$7 that comes into St. Mark's comes from electronic giving. Please consider signing up for this service.

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](mailto:tmislansky@fuse.net) or call me at 513-759-0581.

Thank you,  
Tim Mislansky



# St. Mark's Opportunities

(Fellowship, Participation, Study, Serve)



## RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will be meeting **Friday, May 17 at noon.** Everyone should bring a covered dish and cards for nursing home residents. All women of the church are invited to come and have fellowship. If you have any questions, please see or call Pam Guynes (779-6162) or Charlene Miller (844-6793).



## IMPORTANT YOUTH INFORMATION!

Sunday, May 5, 6 - 7:30 pm  
Sunday, May 12, 6 - 7:30 pm  
Sunday, May 19, 6 - 7:30 pm  
Sunday, May 26, 6 - 7:30 pm

Any questions, contact Erin at (513)748-1085 or [erintheodor@gmail.com](mailto:erintheodor@gmail.com)



If you like to have a good time, meet people and eat - the Lunch Bunch would like to invite you to join us for lunch and socializing once a month at various restaurants around the area (we are always open to suggestions of places to eat too!) The Lunch Bunch is a group made up of 55 and older adults. We will be meeting in May at Snow's Lakeside Tavern, 4344 Dry Ridge Rd., Cinti, on **Wed. May 15th at noon.** Please see Bob or Carol Pittman or call 829-4548 for reservations by noon, Mon. May 13th.



# May Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Sandy Ronningen
- 3 - Kathy Bradley
- 3 - Marla George
- 6 - Beth Ewald
- 7 - Malakie Edmundson (16 yrs.)
- 9 - Mary Mislansky (16 yrs.)
- 10 - Riley Luken (3 yrs.)
- 11 - Tomie O'Sullivan
- 13 - Barbara White
- 14 - Cathy Seeger
- 15 - Teresa Griffin
- 17 - Roger Roark
- 18 - Julie Mislansky
- 22 - Jeff Guynes
- 22 - Gretchen Menke
- 23 - Marta Hollinger
- 24 - Zedith Pottenger
- 25 - Gary Miller
- 25 - Sue Webster
- 26 - Shirley Aydlett
- 26 - Lauren Dichtl
- 27 - Marjorie Gaddis
- 27 - Ray Kuertz
- 28 - Diana Danford (3 yrs.)
- 28 - Rich Zugelster
- 29 - John McWilliam
- 30 - Betty Winkler



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Ray & Karen Smith
- 6 - Don & Susan Moser
- 9 - Bill & Julie Dichtl
- 17 - Hugh & Pam Guynes
- 25 - Lee & Arvilla Brinkmeyer
- 28 - Charlie & Debbie Bryant
- 28 - Jerry & Gail Hartwig
- 30 - Bill & Lynne Schumacker



I want to thank my St. Mark's family for your prayers, cards and words of encouragement during the past few months while I have been dealing with a recent cancer diagnosis. I have been touched by your concern and support. Being the recipient of prayer is humbling as well as uplifting and I very much appreciate being included in yours.

Marty Kubik

**St. Mark's,**

I am so blessed to be a part of this church family. During this very trying time, you have brought sunshine & love into my life with prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and flowers. God bless you.

Love, Iris Jones

**St. Mark's Family,**

Thanks for all the prayers, cards and concerns when I was in the hospital and now recovering at home.

Patty Coyle



## **Heifer Project Fill the Ark**

St. Mark's has once again stepped up to a fundraising challenge!! This year our Lenten Mission project was to support Heifer International and "fill an ark" with as many animals as we could. The fun twist this time was that we let donors choose which animal they wanted to contribute to. Many individuals, families, St. Marks Cares, the Bell Choir, The Chancel Choir, the Admin Board, the Sunday School kids, our Ruth Circle Women's Group, and the Wednesday Night Bible Study group all joined in to make this project a great success! Are you ready for the grand total???

**\$3,448**

**A huge thank you to everyone for their generosity!!**

We will be helping many struggling families become self-reliant by providing them with the means to produce their own food, their own income, start their own small business and, most importantly, take care of their family with dignity. And now, here's the list of all the purchases we will be able to make!!

<b>4 beehives</b>	<b>\$100 to Women's Empowerment</b>	
<b>2 flocks of ducks</b>	<b>2 flocks of geese</b>	
<b>2 goats</b>	<b>1 flock of chickens</b>	<b>2 sheep</b>
<b>1 trio of rabbits</b>	<b>6 tree seedlings</b>	
<b>3 schools of fish</b>	<b>1 pig</b>	<b>3 llamas</b>
	<b>Send a girl to school</b>	
<b>2 cows</b>	<b>2 water buffalos</b>	<b>1 irrigation well</b>





**Hamilton Living Water Ministry, Inc.** has been serving children and families in Hamilton's inner city since it was founded in 1999 by area UM Churches. I have been volunteering in some form since 2003 when I first visited there with a group of volunteers from St. Mark's when we went to provide a mini VBS program for them. The children captured my heart from that moment! I have seen some of those children grow and mature through the program and come back to serve as volunteers or teachers. And now years later it is my great privilege to be a part of the Administrative Board to help continue the vision and efforts of service to these children and their families! The families we serve average income right now is \$11,500. for a family of four.

**Our Mission:** To make a positive impact on the lives of at risk children, youth and families in Hamilton's inner city by offering quality academic, community and spiritual enrichment programs designed to promote dignity and self worth, provide hope for the future, and encourage each of God's children to reach their greatest potential.

We are so very blessed to be celebrating 20 years of serving this summer! We could not offer the variety of programs and opportunities that we do without the volunteer help and generous support from people like you here at St. Mark's and the community around us. Please be on the look out for ways in which you the family of believers here at St. Mark's may be able to help in the next few months. For one, we will be providing a mini VBS to the children the week of June 24-27 during the day and we will for sure be needing some volunteers to go along! Until then to learn more, feel free to check out the website at: [Hamilton Living Water Ministry.org](http://HamiltonLivingWaterMinistry.org) - or find me, I'd love to tell you more about us!

In HIS service,  
Sue Luken  
St. Mark's Cares Member



**Each Sunday in worship, we have 2 Altar Flower arrangements. If you would like to give flowers in honor of someone, in memory of someone, or just because, please sign up on the Flower Chart that is posted on the hall by the Narthex. The cost of each arrangement is \$14.50. You may take the flowers home after the service.**





## ST. MARK'S PACK 969

April was rocket month for Pack 979. They learned how rockets work, how to build them, and launched them. They enjoyed launching the rockets and being outside in the nice weather. April 28th, the boys helped Fairfield West Elementary with their spring makeover - cleaning up and helping with landscaping for their community.

Pack 989 and their families are going camping the 18th of May. These camping trips allow the boys to bond outside of normal pack den. They play capture the flag, gaga ball and tag. They also receive their patches and level up to their next den.

May 7th will conclude our spring fundraisers. If you are interested in camp cards, please reach out to Melanie Bell, our Pack Master.



# Support St. Mark's Mission Through eGiving



- Make regular church offerings without writing a check or preparing envelopes
- Give anytime, anywhere using your computer, tablet or mobile phone
- Schedule recurring contributions so they arrive even when you can't attend services

**If you would like to give electronically, visit St. Mark's website and click on the GIVE link near the top right of the page.**

<https://www.fairfieldstmarks.com/give/>

# St. Mark's United Methodist Church

## OUR MISSION

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## OUR VISION

As followers of Jesus, we are called to be a community of believers who are on a journey creating new pathways to model God's love to our faith family, community and the ends of the world, purposefully making a positive impact in developing disciples of Christ.

## OUR CORE VALUES

### **RADICAL HOSPITALITY** Romans 15:7

*Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

All people matter to God and therefore to us.  
We invite all to experience grace and full participation.  
We love and support one another as a faith family.

### **PASSIONATE WORSHIP** Psalm 84:1-2

*How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.*

We gather to deliberately seek an encounter with God.  
We believe God uses worship to transform lives, heal wounded souls, renew hope, shape decisions, provoke change and inspire peace and justice.

### **INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT** Acts 2:42

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

We purposefully learn in community that helps us mature in faith from birth to end of life.  
We learn to be a community of believers together growing in Christ.

### **HEALTHY, OPEN COMMUNICATION** James 1:19-20

*You must understand this my beloved, let everyone be quick to listening, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.*

We communicate with each other with an open heart and open mind, loving one another as Christ has loved us.  
We respect each other even when we disagree, listening carefully, doing no harm.

### **RISK TAKING MISSION, SERVICE & NURTURE** Matthew 25:40

*Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.*

We participate with God in his mission working within our congregation, the community near us and the world beyond us.  
We engage in genuine connections.  
We seek transformation by finding our gifts and calling for God.  
We make a positive difference in the lives of others whether or not they will be part of our community.

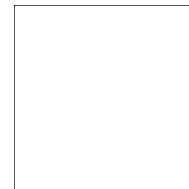
### **EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY** 2 Corinthians 9:11

*You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.*

We generously share and give that exceeds all expectations through active participation in stewardship of our time, talents, gifts and service.

**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  
Interim Youth Director, Erin Theodor  
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