



# SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S

## June/July 2019

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



**Annual Conference**

**June 2 - 6, 2019**  
West Ohio Conference



Sunday, June 2  
Cantata  
"Shelter"  
by the choir.



Graduate information  
on page 11.

The next Fifth  
Sunday, of the  
Month, after church  
luncheon will be  
**June 30.**  
Details in  
up-coming bulletins.



**Pentecost  
Sunday  
June 9th**



See page 10 for information!

Dear St. Mark's Family, (the following was also shared during worship on June 2)

I look forward to being with you again beginning June 2. Thank you for the opportunity to have this much needed time away. I needed it.

Yesterday (June 1), Linda and I received the autopsy report and death certificate from Iowa. These documents confirmed that Jonathan chose to end his life by suicide, a cause that first came to us as a possibility just a few days following the memorial service. This magnifies the trauma and time of recovery ("recovery" is not the best word). It's tragic to lose a son suddenly as we did. But, suicide brings more. It brings questions, guilt, regret, some anger. There is a certain stigma around the topic of suicide. We don't like to talk about it. Sometimes there's embarrassment and shame. But, we need to talk about it.

Here in the U.S., people are afraid. People are afraid of illegal immigrants crossing our borders, and possibly doing harm to us. We fear those who would attack us. Some are afraid of walking the streets at night.

But, the fact is that more people kill themselves than are killed by others. Let that sink in.

In the last 20 years, suicides have increased by 30%.

In 2017, 47,173 Americans died by suicide.

In 2017, there were an estimated 1,400,000 suicide attempts.

Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for people 10 to 34 years of age. (a, b, c, d, e source: American Federation of Suicide Prevention).

This is a crisis. Before Jonathan's death, I did not know of these startling statistics. I had no idea.

The Payne family continues to process and come to terms with our loss. I know also that others experience similar losses, and that given these statistics, it is possible that most of us have been impacted by suicide in some way. My prayers go to all who are in pain, to all who suffer.

From here on, I will work to find ways, big and small, to help others in their pain. We will work together to find ways to decrease the number of these tragic deaths. We will be advocates of healing — healing of body, mind, and spirit.

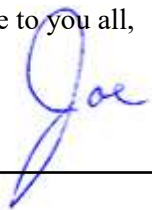
As our choir sang on June 2,

When the sun beats down on the barren ground, and turns the soil to stone;  
When the rain falls hard, and the rivers flood, and the banks won't hold.

You are my Shelter, You are my Hideaway, You are my Covering, You keep me safe.  
You are my Harbor, You are my Quiet Place, You are my Refuge, and my Strength;

You are my Shelter.

Love to you all,



## Attitudes Toward Difference Surveys

Thank you to the 87 who completed the "Attitudes Toward Difference" surveys. The last day to receive the surveys was on Easter, April 21. A draft report on the surveys will be shared with the Administrative Council during a meeting at 7 pm on June 25th. Afterwards, the congregation will receive the report and our steps forward from there.

# St. Mark's Finance Report

Greeting St. Mark's Family,

Here's your April finance report and a preview of our May results.

In April, we received \$26,500 into St. Mark's. At first glance, this compares negatively to both March 2019 and April 2018, but both of those had 5 Sundays. The weekly average in April was up about \$1,000 from the prior month and same month last year. Year to date we are up about 8% in total giving/receipts. We spent \$25,500 for the month so we squeezed out a \$1,000 profit. No major spending was completed for the month. We paid another month of apportionments to both the district and the conference. We also made our loan payments on time and our total debt now sits at just under \$77,000. Despite this positive news, we are behind our budget by about \$10,000 in total giving for the year. We are fortunate that we have spent about \$12,000 less than our budget this year – mainly due to not having to spend much on capital expenditures.

Another key item is that the parking lot fund now sits at just over \$12,000 – which is enough to repair the sinkhole. We remain hopeful to get to \$35,000 to considerably improve the safety of our facility to include sinkhole repair, parking lot re-pavement and additional lightening in the parking. A special thanks for the folks who organized the salad luncheon which contributed about \$2,000 to the fund. Please consider contributing to this important effort.

It's too early for May results to be in, but they are in line with each prior month. Giving remains fairly constant and fortunately there were no major expenses for the month. We do expect our expenses for the month to be higher than the amount we bring in further complicating our tight cash position.

The Finance Committee remains concerned is that our cash position is weak. 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 April, this so-called borrowing was \$4,000. 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.

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)

## JUNE LUNCH

We will be meeting in June at The Olive Garden, 7179 Dixie Highway (Rt.4), Fairfield, on **Wednesday, June 19th at noon.**

Please see Bob or Carol Pittman or call 829-4548 for reservations by noon, Monday, June 17th.



## JULY LUNCH

We will be meeting in July at Houston's, 4026 US 42, Lebanon, on **Wednesday, July 17th at noon.**

Please see Bob or Carol Pittman or call 829-4548 for reservations by noon, Monday, July 15th.

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.



- 6/2 NO Youth Group (Annual Conference)
- 6/9 Youth Group 6-7:30 pm at St. Mark's
- 6/16 NO Youth Group (Father's Day)
- 6/23 Youth Group 6-7:30 pm at St. Mark's
- 6/30 Youth Group 6-7:30 pm at St. Mark's
- 7/7 NO Youth Group (VBS)
- 7/14 Youth Group 6:7:30 pm at St. Mark's
- 7/21 Youth Group 6-7:30 pm at St. Mark's
- 7/28 Youth Group 6-7:30 pm at St. Mark's

All seniors who have recently graduated are still welcome to attend any meetings they'd like to during the summer. Our main focus will be working on our remodel/revamping of the Youth room upstairs - so the more, the merrier!

Also, if any youth would like to help with VBS this year, it is happening Sunday, 7/7 through Thursday 7/11 from 6:30-8:15 pm at St. Mark's. Please let Erin know if you would like to and are able to help!

# *June/July Birthdays and Anniversaries*

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

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3 - Lisa Bowman  
3 - Kym Nguyen  
6 - William Nguyen  
7 - Chris Cooper  
7 - Nancy Lewis  
8 - Charlotte Tierney  
9 - Brian George  
9 - Dale Shreve  
10 - Sue Beckett  
11 - Janice Chaney  
13 - Aidyn Edmundson  
13 - Don White  
15 - Karen Smith  
16 - Helen Mullen  
20 - Becky Hamblin  
21 - Rich Stracke  
24 - Tim Mislansky  
25 - Mark Hensler, Jr.  
25 - Sarah Luken  
26 - Debbie Hill  
26 - Ardean Pitman  
27 - Wes Flannery  
27 - Kristy Theiss  
28 - Don Stewart  
29 - Sue McDaniel  
30 - Terrill Broshear  
30 - Mike Fitzpatrick



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Owen Becker (8)	14 - Vicki Cavendar
1 - Rick Kiefer	14 - Cheryl Kemen
1 - Judy Klingel	17 - Ben Chambers
1 - Autumn Roemer (18)	17 - Becky Mendenhall
2 - Merianne Cardas	19 - Mary Pierson
2 - Juanita Pool (103)	20 - Lew Hollinger
3 - Jody Cooper-Fenske	20 - Linda Payne
3 - Devin Goodman	21 - Tim Mullen
3 - Kayla Goodman	22 - Kraig Cavendar
3 - Bryon Jones	22 - Marilyn Stewart
4 - Marilyn Peters	25 - Mark Hensler
5 - Bob Miracle	27 - Elizabeth Bunte
7 - Ann McWilliam	27 - Carol Gering
8 - Don Kemen	27 - Gale Logan
8 - Dan Scofield	27 - Brodie Theiss
9 - Debi Brewer	28 - Jean Cottrill
11 - Lawrence Tischler	29 - Penny Dole
12 - Debbie Flannery	29 - Iris Jones
12 - Morgan Theodor (4)	30 - Zachary Dichtl
	31 - Charles Hampton (3)

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Rick & Janis Kiefer	20 - Greg & Joann Keith
8 - Greg & Megan Kuertz	20 - Larry & Andrea Tischler
10 - Rick & Jennie Marshall	24 - Bobby & Jennifer Rinker
11 - Lew & Marta Hollinger	25 - Bob & Judy Klingel
18 - Max & Betty Stover	25 - Cliff & Cheryl Klug
19 - Dan & Judy Scofield	25 - Tim & Maria Mullen
20 - Bill & Miriam Chupka	25 - Rich & Suzan Stracke
	26 - Eric & Michele Leyrer

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Dick & Edith Davis  
3 - Ira & Mary Begley  
7 - John & Ann McWilliam  
11 - Shane & Brooke Becker  
11 - Wes & Debbie Flannery  
11 - Ben & Dollie Gallihugh  
11 - Tim & Julie Mislansky  
12 - Dick & Terri Roemer  
15 - Bob & Carol Pittman  
22 - Jim & Sue Beckett  
26 - Bob & Sharon Hamp  
26 - Mike & Stephanie Paige



# ST. MARKS CARES MISSION MOMENT

## SUMMER DONATION DRIVES

We will be collecting for 3 different causes during the summer months.

### JUNE- BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Starting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be collecting items for the Big Brothers Big Sisters. Besides their amazing child mentor program, BBBS also serves children ages 6-12 through after school programs. They have 13 different sites that reach all 8 districts in the Butler County schools. The program coordinators have provided us with their wish list to help them better serve the children. Check out our bulletin board to see what items you might like to purchase! We would love to be able to get them everything on their list!!

13 sets of markers	6 UNO card games	11 Lego sets
11 craft sets	6 board games	13 Nerf footballs
13 Nerf basketballs	13 Nerf soccer balls	13 wiffle bat and ball
13 decks of cards	13 single person jump ropes	

### JULY- SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

In July, we will take advantage of the back to school supplies sales and collect for several organizations that help provide needed supplies to kids. We will provide a more specific item list in July, but in the meantime, watch for those sales on paper, markers, pencils and backpacks!

### AUGUST- ANNUAL "UMCOR FLOOD BUCKET" COLLECTION

Starting in August, we will be collecting donations for UMCOR flood buckets. Suggestions for a fun, friendly competition are being taken! Last year it was the left side of the sanctuary versus the right. Any ideas? Share it with someone on the St. Marks Cares committee!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!!

**We will be serving at Matthew 25 Ministries on Saturday morning, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00.**

There is work for any age and any ability- all you need is a willing heart!

If you need a ride, please indicate so on the sign up sheet on our St. Mark's Cares bulletin board. For those who do need a ride, we will meet at church at 8:20.

If you do not need a ride, meet us at M25 at 8:50. This is always a fun time of fellowship and serving. Come join us!!



St. Marks Cares will be serving the kids at **Living Water Ministries** this summer by leading a 4 day

VBS program! It will be held at LWM in Hamilton on **June 24-27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00** each day. We will be using the Polar Blast VBS program- games, crafts, music and bible adventures- for the first 3 days.

The fourth day will be a fun day of fun, games and celebration. We are very excited about this opportunity to share the love of Jesus with these kids! We would love to have your help! Since this is a smaller, shorter VBS we do not need a large group. Ten to twelve adults and a few youth will be plenty to make this a fun and successful VBS. All materials and curriculum are provided there will be very little preparation on your part. Please consider joining us! Sign-ups are on the St. Marks Cares bulletin board.



**We will have a volunteer/planning meeting on Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at church.**

Any questions? Talk to Sue Luken or Julie Mislansky.

# MISSION SPOTLIGHT- BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

The first Big Brothers Big Sisters agency was founded in Cincinnati in 1903! Big Brothers Big Sisters of Butler County has provided mentors to children since 1968 and is the only evidence-based mentoring agency in Butler County. Our mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally-supported, one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever! We serve approximately 700 children each year.



Some of the risk factors our children demonstrate include:

- 90% live at or below the poverty line;
- 48% are from single female headed households;
- 18% reside with non-parental guardians;
- 19% are the child of an incarcerated parent;
- 71% have a family history of substance abuse;
- 10% have a mental health diagnosis;
- More than 50% have a history of child abuse in their families of origin.

The mentors spend time with their Little Brother or Sister two to four times per month working on goals established for each individual child, having fun and building a friendship. It's this friendship that makes the impact of mentoring possible. The mentor serves as a positive role model for the child, demonstrating in the way he/she lives her life, that if the child stays in school and works hard, life can be different than the one the child is experiencing now.

Of the Butler County children we served in 2018,

- 95% improved their level of self-confidence;
- 77% demonstrated a sense of the future;
- 81% improved their academic performance;
- 90% improved their attitude toward school;
- 88% were able to avoid juvenile delinquency;
- 84% were able to avoid substance abuse;
- 84% were able to avoid early parenting;
- 93% improved their relationship with peers;
- 86% improved their relationship with adults.



There are currently 173 Butler County children waiting for a Big Brother or Sister. St. Mark's congregation can support the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters by making a donation to help fund the cost of finding, screening, training, matching and supervising new volunteer mentors for some of the children on the waiting list or you can become a mentor!

I've worked in the not-for-profit sector all my life. When my family moved to Fairfield 18 years ago, I wanted to work for a not-for-profit that served children. I was fortunate to find a job with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Butler County and have worked there ever since. I have witnessed the impact that mentoring can have on a child's life and it is truly life-changing. I invite you to help defend the potential of local children through the gift of your time, your talent or your treasures!

Julie Dichtl, St. Marks member and Vice President of Development, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Butler County



# *Christmas in July*

*A Benefit Event for Serve City*

*Saturday, July 20, 2019*

*\$15 per person*

**Attendance is by reservation**

*First Baptist Church*

*1501 Pyramid Hill Blvd*

*Hamilton, OH 45013*

## *An Irish Christmas*



We are planning an evening of good food, music, and an opportunity to learn what Serve City has done, is doing now, and is planning for the future. This is a fund raising event and an invitation to become a vital part of this ministry of area churches. We begin at 5:00 PM with a silent auction of gift baskets followed by a delicious dinner. After dinner, the Christmas in July Singers will be leading everyone in some familiar Irish songs.

Linda Kimble, Executive Director 513-737-8900

Karen Buchanan, Event Chair 513-470-7170

Serve City - A ministry of Area Churches - 622 East Avenue - Hamilton, Ohio 45011 - (513)737-9701



## ST. MARK'S PACK 969



May has been a busy month for Pack 969. We had our graduation camp out. We had 32 boys graduate this year, that's the highest we have had. At graduation, the lions, (now tigers) and tigers (now wolf's) made dinner for the pack to obtain their cooking requirement. The bear (now webelo)den made tool boxes. This included sanding, painting and using tools. They did a fantastic job. We have Cub Scout camp coming up in July. We are currently working on a schedule for the upcoming months.



## **TO MARS AND BEYOND!!**

**VBS at St. Mark's**

**Sunday, July 7th - Thursday, July 11th  
6:30 pm - 8:15 pm**

**Open to 4 yrs. old - 5th grade**



Opportunities to serve include:

- ◆ Helping during VBS:
  - Star guide
  - Games
  - and more!!!
- ◆ Look in future bulletins for items to donate.
- ◆ Share with family, friends and the community to join us for VBS!
- ◆ Pray for a fun, safe and enjoyable VBS at St. Mark's to share the love of Jesus Christ in our community.

Next VBS planning meeting is **Tuesday, June 11 at 6:45 pm** in the Choir Room if you would like to help with VBS.

Questions - please see Jennie Marshall or Peggy Smith



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Maddie Hensler - Fairfield High



Cameron Smoot - Mason High



Ciara Menke - Fairfield High



Autumn Roemer - Ross High



Tre'el Edmundson  
Fairfield High



Caitlin Menke - Fairfield High



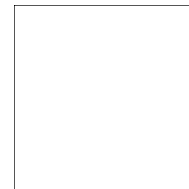
Chelsea Menke - University of Cincinnati  
Master's in Medical Genetics



Mark Hensler - Ohio State University  
Master of Architecture

**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