



A WONDER-FULL LIFE WORSHIP SERIES
Looking at Money and Meaning

*LOOKING BACK, LOOKING IN,
LOOKING OUT, LOOKING WITH GRATITUDE*

*"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."
John 10:10b*

November 3 — "Looking Back"

November 10 — "Looking In"

November 17 — "Looking Out"

TODAY — "Looking With Gratitude"

Thanks-Giving Sunday

2020 Giving Estimates Received

Church Family Brunch

Tonight:

5pm: Hanging of the Greens / Pizza Party

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
November 24, 2019, 9:30 am

GATHERING: COMPASSION

As we open our eyes and come out of any avoidance we have regarding our feelings about money, we illumine a candle and ask God to be with us on this journey. We ask God to give us fresh perspectives that can shift any "dis-ease" that holds us back from a courageous vision about our money paths. We have compassion for ourselves and each other, because the systems of money we live in are not easy to navigate.

Please read aloud the bold text.

The "" invites you to stand in body and/or spirit.*

CENTERING

PRELUDE "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho" Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP "Illuminating the Shadows"

Singing:

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

Speaking:

We light this flame to affirm that where there is light,
there is understanding;
where there is understanding,
there is compassion;
where there is compassion,
there is possibility;
where there is possibility;
there is transformation.

Holy and Living God,
transform our fears into awe-inspired wonder.

**Open us to this light,
and to the rich possibilities that it brings us
for a "wonder-full" life. Amen.**

*HYMN "Love Divine, All Love's Excelling" Hymnal (UMH) 384

WELCOME Pastor Joe Payne

*PASSING THE PEACE

"A Wonder Full Life"

**To be full of love, to be full of grace
To be full of peace is a wonderful life.**

**Giving others love, giving others grace,
Giving others peace is a wonderful life.**

PROCLAIMING: CURIOSITY

We become curious—full of "wonder-ing." We further transform our tendencies of avoiding money issues into a desire to know more about the systems of money and our own relationship to it. We explore what our faith story invites us to do about the systems of money in which we find ourselves.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READING

Singing

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

SCRIPTURE Acts 4:32-35
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Looking With Gratitude"

ANTHEM "Thank You, God" Chancel Choir

RESPONDING: CREATIVITY

This part of the service helps us to "wonder" in a different way. We invite a state of awe at the abundance of our lives by noticing the "rich" beauty around us, the presence of "treasured" people, and new and unexpected "gems" that cross our paths. We commit to engage our creativity to multiply good in the world.

THE WONDER OF IT ALL, In Pictures and Prayers
The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. AMEN.**

SINGING... "Thank You, Lord" UMH 84

OFFERING WITNESS Kym and Steve Nguyen

OFFERING Offertory "Like a River Glorious" Handbell Choir

*Doxology

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of Heaven, my treasure thou art.**

*Offering Prayer

SENDING FORTH: COMMITMENT

Having walked with God in "looking" into our heart's relationship to money, we commit to take the practices out into the world and our daily lives with renewed compassion, curiosity and creativity.

*HYMN "This is a Day of New Beginnings" UMH 383

During the singing of the hymn, walk down the center aisle as individual households, and place your completed Estimate Of Giving card in front of the Communion Table. Continue walking on either side aisle in order to make one large circle around the sanctuary's perimeter.

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG "Take Jesus With You" Gary Weaver (1937-2019)
**When you leave this place, take Jesus with you.
Share His love with others every day.
Share His promises and all the hope it gives you.
Share His joy with those you meet along the way.
Use the strength He gives in pain or sorrow.
Learn to forgive as He forgives your sins.
In your quiet time give thanks in prayer
and praise His holy Name,
And He will bless you,
And He will keep you,
Until we meet you here again.**

*POSTLUDE

ALL ARE INVITED TO THE THANKSGIVING BRUNCH
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY AFTER SERVICE: All are invited to Fellowship Hall for a Thanksgiving Brunch. Thanks to the Nurture and Care committee for providing this for the St. Mark's Family.

TODAY AT 5 PM - HANGING OF THE GREENS: YOUR HELP is needed and very much welcome as we ready your church for the beginning of Advent. Pizza party follows!

ST. MARK'S POINSETTIAS for Christmas & Christmas Eve: If you would still like to order a poinsettia and did not get a form yet, there are extras at the Welcome Center. **Orders must be received by tomorrow.**

THANKSGIVING MEAL GIVING PROJECT: Final count, we collected **\$715 for Fairfield Food Pantry!** Because of your generosity, at least 25 Fairfield families will have a full Thanksgiving.

ADVENT STUDY: Our Advent study **starts tomorrow night at 7:00!** Our study is Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas by Jorge Acevedo. We will explore how, where, and why Christ sends us into the

world to be his hands and feet. If you haven't signed up or still need a book, please see Julie Mislansky at the Welcome Center after worship.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS ANGELS: The angels are here! Find them at the Welcome Center! We have enough tags to provide Christmas gifts for 50 children, but they are going fast! This year they are asking us to buy a coat, a pair of shoes or boots, and a requested toy, at an estimated cost of \$100. This might be a great opportunity for two or three individuals, couples or families to join together and provide the items for one child. **All items need to be returned to church by Dec. 8th**; no need to wrap the gifts, simply place all the items in one bag with the tag attached to the outside. Please see or call Karen Smith (382-7316) or Julie Mislansky (505-4061) with questions.

ADVENT CELEBRATION: Next Sunday, December 1 - 4 pm. There will be Crafts, Pot-Luck Dinner, Children's Program, and closing by gathering around the Outdoor Nativity and singing "Away in a Manger". Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Questions, see or call Peggy Smith (307-4509).

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT: Friday, December 6th - 5:00 to 9:00 pm. Drop your kids off at the church and we'll take care of the rest - dinner, crafts, games, and a movie. Don't have kids? Sign-up to help! Donations will benefit St. Mark's Student Ministries. See or contact Erin Theodor (748-1085) for any questions.

SENIOR'S CHRISTMAS PARTY: Saturday, December 7th at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. All senior adults are invited. Bring a covered dish to share. Questions, see or call Shirley Aydlett (894-5209).

CHOIR CANTATA: Sunday, December 15th. Invite your friends to come and hear the message in music by our choir.

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY: Sunday, December 15th, 6-7:30 pm at St. Mark's. Questions, see or call Erin Theodor (748-1085).

RUTH CIRCLE CHRISTMAS MEETING: Friday, December 20 at Noon. This will be a covered dish luncheon. Bring a \$1.00 Grab bag gift. All women are invited to attend. Any questions, see or call Pam Guynes (779-9162) or Charlene Miller (844-6793).

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

6:30 pm Family service

11:00 pm Traditional service with Candlelight and Communion.

ST. MARK'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

TODAY

- 8:30 am Fellowship, Donuts, Coffee, Juice and Milk. (Fellowship Hall and the Narthex)
9:30 am Worship Celebration
After Worship Thanksgiving Brunch
5:00 pm Hanging of the Greens / Pizza Party

MONDAY

- 10:00 am Craft Group (Rm. 104)
7:00 pm Advent Study (Heritage Rm.)

TUESDAY

- 10:30 am Bible Study (Heritage Rm.)
7:00 pm Scouts (F. Hall)

WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 am Prayer Group (Heritage Rm.)
Church Office closed

THURSDAY

- Church Office closed - Happy Thanksgiving
6:15 pm NA Meeting (F. Hall)
FRIDAY Church Office closed

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

- 8:30 am Fellowship, Donuts, Coffee, Juice and Milk. (Fellowship Hall and the Narthex)
9:30 am Worship Celebration
4:00 pm Advent Celebration / Pot-luck Dinner / Children's Program

New Worship Series Begins Next Sunday:



December 1 – "Hopeful Joy"

December 8 – "Loving Joy"

December 15 – "Unabashed Joy"
Cantata "Messiah, Heaven's Glory"

December 22 – "Peaceful Joy"

December 24 – "Incarnate Joy"

6:30 – Family Service 11:00 – Midnight Festival of Carols

December 29 – "Compassionate Joy"

PRAYER REQUESTS

11/17 Requests

St. Mark's member, Evelyn Rewerts, passed away this week.

Memorial service at St. Mark's on Saturday, Nov. 23rd.

Prayers for our Congress.

Joy - My niece's triplets arrived Nov. 13th.- 2 boys & 1 girl. Mother and babies progressing well. (Freida Hawkins)

Joy - Blessing to have our musical Sue Combs with us. Happy Birthday on the 21st.

New since last Sunday:

Don Jackson in the hospital.

Hospital or Re-Hab

Betsy Jones - Jamestowne Therapy

Max Stover - Tri-County Extended Care.

Eleanor McCollum - Home

John McWilliam - Jamestowne Therapy (Will be moving to Berkley)

Ann McWilliam - Home

St. Mark's Shut-ins / Homebound

John Best - Sanctuary Pointe

Nancy Mirade

Phyllis Tunning - Triplecreek

Dale Shreve - Birchwood

Laura Spahn

Virginia Shaw

Sue Webster

Don Olson (Hospice)

Sandy Ronningen (Chesterwood)

Judy Gross

Continuing Prayers for St. Mark's Family

Merianne Cardas

Dick Brewer

Kristy Theiss

Bryon Jones

Jean Stivers

Nancy Bumpus

Prayer & Bible St. Groups

Pastor Joe & Linda

Continuing Friends of St. Mark's & Week of Special Request

All service Men & Women

Our Country UM Church

Mitch Thomas

Jack Cook

Patti 11/3

Virginia's son's father-in-law 11/3

Betty Jones' daughter-in-law 10/27

Lew Hollinger 10/27

Gina Hollinger 10/27

Knull Family 11/3

Co-worker, Katy 11/3

Ray Smith 11/3

Grandsons, Chez & Jason 11/10

Shay Irvin 10/27

WELCOME TO ST. MARK'S!

Our Mission is to make Disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.

STAFF

Pastor	Joe Payne
Administrative Assistant	Brenda Smoot
Director of Music	Chris Beiser
Organist	Sue Combs
Director of Children & Family Ministries	Peggy Smith
Youth Director	Erin Theodor
Nursery Director	Lauren Dichtl
Pastor Emeritus	Bob Klingel

OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Liturgist	Merianne Cardas
Head Usher	Andy Shellman
Ushers	Cliff & Cheryl Klug Debbie Bryant, Marty Kubik
Greeter	Russ Carr
Handbell Director	Dianne Aiken
Prayer Room	Gail Hartwig

The Prayer Room is open for private quiet prayer.

THE ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS

... are given in memory of Jami by Ron & Becky Hamblin.
... are given to the Glory of God.

ATTENDANCE: 11/17 - 144

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

4601 Fairfield Ave.
Fairfield, OH 45014
513.844.1818
Fairfieldstmarks.com