



SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S

November 2019

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



All - Saint's Sunday November 3, 2019

Those in the St. Mark's family that have departed since All-Saint's Sunday, November 4, 2018 will be recognized.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24TH

Please prayerfully consider how you want to support God's work through St. Mark's in 2020.

All-Church Brunch following worship. Come!

CHURCH CONFERENCE and POT-LUCK DINNER

**Sunday, November 17th
6:00 pm**

Everyone is invited to attend. Celebrate 2019. Look forward to 2020.

Election of 2020 officers, membership, and other items.

Hanging of the Greens and Pizza Party
November 24, 5:00 pm.
All are urged to help decorate our church for Advent.

**Advent Celebration
Dec 1**

**Information
on page 6.**



A Note from Pastor Joe

Dear St. Mark's Church Family,

Halloween, a day enjoyed by many, has come and gone. It's a fun day. But, did you know about the day after Halloween, or more properly, All Hallows' (Saints') Eve? It's all Saints Day. United Methodists observe the day on the first Sunday after November 1. This year the day falls on November 3. As is our custom, we will be honoring all saints, living and dead, particularly those who have passed away the previous 12 months.

Why do we do this? I thought you might be interested in reading an excerpt from an article I read on umc.org:

John Wesley called All Saints Day "a festival I truly love." So...United Methodists believe in saints? Well, yes and no. Wesley cautioned against holding saints in too high regard. However, he also advised against disregarding the saints altogether.

All Saints Day is an opportunity to give thanks for all those who have gone before us in the faith. It is a time to celebrate our history, what United Methodists call the tradition of the church. From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. For example, in Hebrews 12 the author encourages Christians to remember that a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounds us encouraging us, cheering us on.

Alongside the likes of Paul from the New Testament, Augustine, Martin Luther, and John and Charles Wesley, we tell stories of the grandmother who took us to church every Sunday. We remember the pastor who prayed with us in the hospital, and the neighbor who changed the oil in the family car. We give thanks for the youth leader who told us Jesus loved us, the kindergarten Sunday school teacher who showered us with that love, and the woman in the church who bought us groceries when we were out of work.

Retelling these stories grounds us in our history. These memories teach us how God has provided for us through the generosity and sacrifice of those who have come before us. The stories of the saints encourage us to be all God has created us to be. We think of the inspirational people with whom we worship on Sunday, and those across the world we will never meet. We celebrate fellow United Methodists who inspire us, and those of other denominations whose lives encourage us. We give thanks for those with whom we agree, as well as those whose views we do not share.

Additionally, we remember and pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ who faithfully follow Jesus in places where being labeled a Christian puts them in harm's way.

On All Saints Day, let us give thanks for both the saints in glory and those on earth, who have led us to Jesus. As they have shared the gospel with us, may we add our voices so someone else may hear about the grace and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Join us November 3 as we give thanks "For all the saints, who from their labors rest."

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe".

Source: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/all-saints-day-a-holy-day-john-wesley-loved>

St. Mark's Financial Update

Tim Mislansky, Finance Committee Chairperson



Greetings, St. Mark's Family:

Our financial results for September were pretty similar to the story I've been telling all year. Giving was up from last year's same time. Expenses were up too. And we remain tight in our cash position.

We received just over \$30,000 for the month compared with expenses of \$25,500 – meaning we brought in \$4,500 more than we spent. This is the first month in quite a while where giving outpaced what we spent. We were fortunate that spending was down a bit from our average as we typically spend about \$28,000 each month.

In other important news, we paid our loans on time and the outstanding balances are just under \$72,000. And we have paid 9/12 of our annual district and conference apportionments. We've already paid October's installment, so we only have two more months to go to make 100% apportionment payments for the third year in a row! Thank you for your faithfulness in giving.

The committees of the church have been busy planning for 2020. They've submitted their budgets based on their hopes and dreams for St. Mark's. A key part of the budget process is Consecration Sunday, which will be November 24th. Pastor Joe has a wonderful series based on the classic movie, "It's a Wonderful Life". Be sure not to miss it.

Should you have questions about opportunities to increase giving or about anything related to 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



Why E-Giving?

Steve Nguyen shared why he and Kym decided to start giving electronically. "With our busy schedules and Jack's football schedule, we made the decision to utilize the convenience of electronic giving to support God's work. As a financial advisor and former Finance chairman, I appreciate the importance of consistent giving and how it positively impacts the day to day operations of the church. This consistency gives St. Mark's the peace of mind to keep the lights on and the bills paid through the weeks that we are not in attendance at church. St. Mark's electronic giving allows the flexibility to pick and choose the day that funds are transferred."



How We've Spread God's Love:

Good Neighbor Sunday, held on September 29th, was an amazing day of sharing God's love with our neighbors! We had 93+ people participate in going out into the community and blessing our firefighters, police officers, military persons, emergency room personnel, residents of Parkside Nursing Center and Fairfield Pavilion, some of our homebound members, and anybody we happened to meet in downtown Hamilton. Those who stayed at church wrote notes of prayers and support to our homebound members, our college students and homeless persons who will be served on The Broken Bus and prepared a meal for all of us to enjoy together. We had a great time of fellowship and reflection. We were blessed with a beautiful day and pray we were a blessing to many!

Thanks to all who donated coats and sweatshirts for our annual Coat Drive in October and thanks to the seven individuals who volunteered at Matthew 25 Ministries on October 19th.

Upcoming Opportunities to Serve:

We are collecting monetary donations until November 10th as our **Thanksgiving "Giving Project."** The money will be given to the Fairfield Food Pantry to help provide a Thanksgiving meal to families in need. Each family will be given a turkey and all the good sides to go with it! The estimated cost for this meal is \$25 for a family of four or less and \$30 for a family of five or more. If you'd like to contribute, please do so through the offering plate. Write "Fairfield Food Pantry" on the memo line of your check or on the outside of your offering envelope. We have set a goal of \$500 which will help feed at least 20 families. Thank you for blessing others during the Thanksgiving season.



Our next scheduled time to volunteer at **Shared Harvest will be November 5th from 1:00-3:00.** We need a group of ten people to help us pack food boxes, assembly-line style. Sign-up on the St. Mark's Cares bulletin board or see Debbie Bryant.





A time for St. Mark's to serve with The Broken Bus Ministry will happen on November 9th. The bus is already full of riders to serve, but we still need help providing a meal of soup, fruit and a dessert. See the sign-up sheet on the St. Mark's Cares bulletin board.

We will be serving a pre-Thanksgiving meal to our friends at **Serve City on Friday, November 22nd**. We meet there at 5:30, serve at 6:00 and stay to socialize and clean up until about 7:00. Please see the sign up sheet on the St. Mark's Cares bulletin board to sign up to serve or provide food.



2020 VISION

Your St. Mark's Cares committee, along with Pastor Joe, Peggy Smith (Children's Ministries), Jennie Marshall (Family Ministries), and Erin Theodor (Youth Director) met to evaluate current missions, brainstorm new ideas and ministries and begin planning for the year 2020. It was a great meeting, full of energy, passion and excitement. We will share a more comprehensive summary at the Charge Conference in November, but we are excited to announce four new missions we will be supporting.

The Fringe Coffeehouse www.thefringecoffeehouse.com

The Wesley Foundation <https://www.wesleyuc.org>

YWCA Dove House Shelter www.ywcahamilton.com/domestic-violence

Dougie and Ray's www.dougieandrays.org

There will be more about these new missions in future newsletters. Getting involved with helping at-risk students in the Fairfield Schools and having a community garden at St. Mark's were two additional big ideas that we are exploring. If any of these new missions or ideas touch your heart and you want to get involved, please talk to one of our committee members! New people are always welcome to attend our meetings or to find a way to get more involved with missions and outreach at St. Mark's.

JOIN THE FUN AND RING IN THE ADVENT SEASON!

ADVENT CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 1st

Advent Crafts at 4:00 pm

Pot-luck Dinner at 5:00 pm

6:00 pm

**Special Advent Program
featuring St. Mark's Kids.**

Followed by singing and prayer at the Creche.

**For questions, please see or contact Peggy Smith (307-4509)
(p.smith@stmarksfairfield.com).**



POINSETTIAS

**FOR ST. MARK'S
CHRISTMAS SUNDAY
AND CHRISTMAS EVE.**

**Orders are now being taken.
Poinsettias will come from Berns
in Middletown.
Price is \$10 each and may be
ordered in Red, White, Pink or
Burgundy.**

**Orders must be received by
November 25th.
Call the church office (844-1818)
if you did not get a bulletin order
form.**



**SENIORS:
SAVE THE DATE:**

Annual Christmas Party

Saturday, December 7th

**Fellowship Hall at Noon.
Covered Dish luncheon.
Details in future bulletins.**



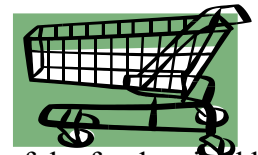
SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SCOUTS - PACK 969

Pack 969 has been busy. We have a poinsettia fundraiser coming up and poinsettias will be offered to the St. Mark's congregation to purchase for your home. We just finished our Spook-o-ree which was a fun night with hay rides and spooky characters. Pack 969 decided to enter the group contest this year. They were the Solar System. We have our Carnival, put on by the Bears, coming up on November 5th. They have chosen a theme of sports.

Pack 969 would like to offer community service projects for members of the church. This would be yard work, dusting, cleaning windows or other activities that you would like help with. Send email to cubscout969ff@gmail.com with what you would like done. The proper age group will then be assigned and a day to get the work done.



HELP RUTH CIRCLE WITH A **NO COST** FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT MISSION PROJECTS



During the last 13 years, Ruth Circle has raised over \$12,000 at NO COST to the participants, using the Kroger's Community Rewards Program. One hundred percent of the funds raised by Ruth Circle go to support missions, such as Fairfield Food Pantry, Caring Closet, Dougie & Rays, Living Water Ministries, Reach Out Lakota, St. Mark's Youth Group Mission Trip, just to name a few.

At this time, we have less than 15 church families participating in this fundraiser. Imagine the money we could raise if we had 50 families participating in this NO COST to you fundraiser. Even if you only spend a small amount at Kroger's, it all adds up. The more cards we have registered, the more money we can raise!

Go to the website krogercommunityrewards.com and log in with your email address and password or create an account to sign up. Our group ID# is JU161 or you can search Ruth Circle to designate your rewards.

You do not need to be a member of Ruth Circle to designate that your funds go to Ruth Circle. Family members can help too!

If you think that you have already designated that your funds go to Ruth Circle, please check the bottom of your Kroger receipt. It should have "You requested Kroger to donate to St. Mark's United Methodist Church".

If you have difficulty registering your Kroger Plus card, please see or contact Pam Guynes at 779-9162 or call Kroger customer service at 1-800-576-4377 and ask them to help you. They are very helpful.

YOUTH NEWS

Happy Fall!

The youth had a good time putting together some ghost treats this past weekend for the Fall Festival, and we sure enjoyed Bob Hamp and his dog, Stella, being there, too!

As we neared the end of the summer, Pastor Joe invited us to his house to gather and work on a back-to-school craft for the children of our congregation.

We're also excited to begin our re-vamp of the youth room upstairs and will be having some fundraisers to help with those costs - so stay tuned!

I'm always looking for people to assist with Youth Group, too, so if you feel called to help, please reach out to me at (513)748-1085 or at erintheodor@gmail.com. The Youth Group (which consists of 6th - 12th graders) meets most Sundays from 6-7:30 pm in the youth room at church.

Erin Theodor
Youth Director



ST. MARK'S BIBLE SUNDAY - October 20, 2019



St. Mark's 3rd Graders were presented Bibles. Pictured is Kaden Theiss with his Bible. Shelby Tierney was also given a Bible but was not present.



FALL FESTIVAL FUN

THANK YOU to all who helped to make our **Fall Festival** an amazing success. One of you counted 375 children who came to your vehicle for candy! When you add the adults to the total, that means you brought joy to at least 500 of our neighbors.

One of our neighbors, "Nichole," reached out to me and wrote, "I went was fun!!! Crafts, games, movie, food, candy!!! Thanks for all that volunteer and I hope to see this thriving next year!"

I couldn't agree more, Nichole. Thank you, Jennie Marshall, and all who came together to make this a fun community event.

Pastor Joe



St. Mark's Opportunities

(Fellowship, Participation, Study, Serve)



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.

Due to several requests, we will be meeting in November.

Shooters
4981 Winners Circle in Liberty Township
Wednesday, November 20 at noon.

Please see or call Bob or Carol Pittman 829-4548 for reservations by noon, Monday, November 18th.

We will not meet in December, but we will start back in January.



RUTH CIRCLE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15
1:00 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL

All women of the church are invited to come and have fellowship. There will be refreshments and Linda Payne will do a program on her Poetry.

Please see or call Pam Guynes (779-9162) or Charlene Miller (844-6793) if you have questions.



Send Us Your Family Photos for the Directory!

St. Mark's has an online directory that you are able to access as a part of the St. Mark's family. Just type in this address: servantkeeper.com/directory/smumc

Our unique password is **4601smumc** That's all there is to it!

To make our directory even better, we need a portrait or your best snapshot photo of your family. We will use this photo for your family profile, and crop individual images for each person in your family. Please send your photos to Cheryl Creach at creachcs@gmail.com

By December, we will print some copies of the directory for those who prefer to have a hard copy.

Address:
Russell Court
380 Laurel Ave
Hartford, OH 45131

Phone:
Home: (613) 884-7007
Cell: (613) 470-8885
Email:
roy1916@yahoo.com
Betridy
08/04



Manage My Family Info | Logout of Directory

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Bill Knau
- 1 - Gunnar Marshall (12 yrs.)
- 2 - Peggy Smith
- 2 - Pam Hard
- 3 - Virginia Shaw
- 4 - Cindy Mischell
- 6 - Mary Begley
- 6 - Mary Lou Knau
- 8 - Gail Hartwig
- 10 - Greg Childress
- 10 - Evelyn Rewerts
- 11 - Don Moser
- 13 - Darlene Kuertz
- 17 - Cliff Klug
- 19 - Jean Bennett
- 20 - Greg Peters
- 21 - Sue Combs
- 22 - Emanuela Amoah (6 yrs.)
- 22 - Vivian Brill
- 22 - Steve Nguyen
- 23 - John Prohaska
- 23 - Taylor Wessels
- 25 - Sharon Hamp
- 25 - Maria Mullen
- 25 - Molly Robinson (5 yrs.)
- 26 - Brenda Smoot
- 28 - Bill Chupka
- 28 - Greg Kuertz
- 28 - Elaine Shreve
- 29 - Lynne Schumacker
- 29 - Justin Theodor
- 29 - Ellie Wessels (3 yrs.)
- 30 - Pastor Joe Payne



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 - John & Peggy Smith
- 6 - Doug & Beth Ewald
- 10 - Dale & Joy Addis
- 12 - Don & Gretchen Menke
- 14 - Bill & Mary Lou Knau - 60 Yrs.
- 20 - Bob & Nancy Miracle
- 21 - Jerry & Betty Jones
- 23 - Danny & Deb Thomas



Dear St. Mark's Family,
Thank you so very much for your love and good care when I recently had my A-Fib ablation and complications following. I truly felt surrounded by love and prayers every step of the way. Special thanks go to our wonderful Choir in giving me so much support that I was able to feel a sense of calm as I faced each procedure. My St. Mark's Family means so much to me and I appreciate Pastor Joe and Linda's concern and prayers, as well.

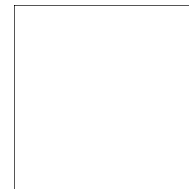
Thank You, Suzan Stracke

St. Mark's Family,
Thanks to all the caring people of St. Mark's. I so appreciate the prayers, cards, food and mostly communion. I'm recovering at home - so good to be home.
Love, Virginia Shaw

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

4601 Fairfield Avenue
Fairfield, OH 45014

513-844-1818



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
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