



# **SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S**

## **MARCH 2020**

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

**Put these important March and April dates on your calendar**

**JOIN US FOR  
Fifth Sunday  
BRUNCH / LUNCH**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29th**  
Immediately following church  
in Fellowship Hall.

The entire congregation is welcome!



**SUNDAY, April 5th, 5—7 pm.**

**Program: A Walk With Jesus**  
Experience the Holy Week Story through  
five multi-sensory stations. Groups will  
journey through these five stations to  
experience the sights and sounds of  
Holy Week.

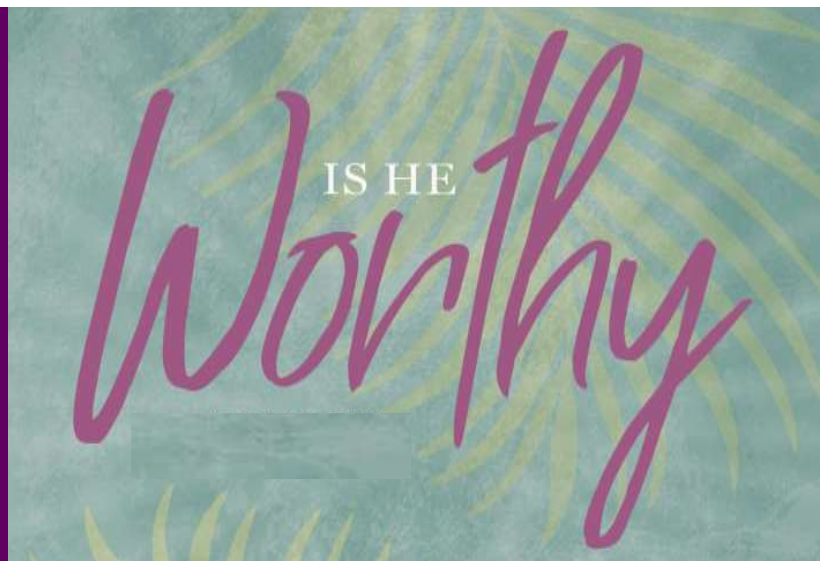
Questions? Contact Peggy Smith. .  
(p.smith@fairfieldstmarks.com)

**Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service**  
April 9, 7:00 p.m. — St. Mark's Sanctuary

We begin in the Upper Room, as we listen to Jesus' New Commandment  
and participate in The Last Supper. We will then Strip the Altar and  
reflect on the events of Good Friday via The Service of Darkness.

**Easter Morning**  
**April 12**  
**Two Services!**  
**Special Worship Times**  
**9:00 & 10:30 A.M.**

**CHOIR CANTATA**





## A Note from Pastor Joe

Dear St. Mark's Church family,

We are living during a time of great angst in our world, nation, and in our denomination.

Concerning the Corona Virus (Covid-19) world epidemic, the World Health Organization has increased its assessment of the risk of spread and the risk of impact to very high at a global level.

The upcoming election is certainly cause for concern and angst for members of both parties as well as independents.

And for United Methodists, the outcome of the May 2020 General Conference is cause for concern. No matter what decisions are made, it is almost certain that the denomination will not be the same afterwards.

This is why I am thankful that we are in the season of Lent. Lent is a time to refocus. It is a time to remember who we are and Whose we are. It is a time to remember that God is with us, even and especially now.

No matter what the future holds, we know Who holds the future.

With you on the Lenten Journey,

## BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. MARK'S

Get to know other St. Mark's folks as you explore the meaning, expectations and joy of church membership.

Grab a donut and cup of coffee, and join Pastor Joe in the Heritage Room at 11 am on March 8, 15, 22, and April 5.

New members will be received April 19.

# FAMILY MINISTRY

FAITH FAMILY - we need your help to fill eggs! For our Hoppin' Easter Egg Hunt, we are asking for eggs to be filled for the children to find. Plastic Eggs are located, in the Narthex, for you to take home and fill with candy (or stickers, and other trinkets for those with allergies) and return to church by March 29th. When returning, please note eggs fill with allergy free trinkets. We are opening our hearts and doors for children in our congregation and community, so let's fill lot of plastic eggs!

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, April 4th, 2020, 4 pm, St. Mark's Hoppin' Easter Egg Hunt. We will have the Easter Egg Hunt for up to 5th grade, crafts and baked goods. Stay tuned for additional opportunities as well.

Children, Youth, Family Ministry - Easter Egg Hunts, Community Garden, VBS - want to know more? Join us 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:45 pm in the Choir Room and join in the fun of planning for the children, youth in our congregation.

Thanks. Let Peggy Smith (307-4509) or Jennie Marshall (515-1224) know if you have any questions!





### ***MATTHEW 25: MINISTRIES VOLUNTEER DAY***

We will be serving at Matthew 25 on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 – 1:00. There is no limit to how many we can take, and all ages and abilities are welcome! Sign-up sheets are on the St. Mark's Cares bulletin board. Please indicate if you need a ride from church to the Matthew 25 building and we will make sure you have one! This is always such a fun time of serving and fellowship.



### ***FAIRFIELD FOOD PANTRY 5K***

For the fourth year in a row, St. Mark's will be a bronze sponsor of the FFFP 5K Walk/Run Race! As a bronze sponsor, we pledge \$500 to the pantry to help them continue to provide food to those in need in our community. We can also help by having a team of walkers! The walk is on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, begins at 9:00 and is at Waterworks Park. Sign-ups are on the St. Mark's Cares bulletin board. Contact Debbie Bryant at 673-0412 with questions or for more information.

### ***UMCOR SUNDAY***

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church. UMCOR responds to U.S. and international natural disasters, addresses diseases of poverty, ministers to refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and actively works to reduce hunger. UMCOR Sunday is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Gifts given on this Sunday go directly to UMCOR to be used to where they are needed most working to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.



### ***WESLEY FOUNDATION***



The Wesley Foundation at the University of Cincinnati is a campus-based ministry serving college age students in connection with the West Ohio Conference. Their mission is to offer God's radical love to every student in the greater Cincinnati, Ohio area and to form a community of disciples grounded In Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Wesley Foundation is one of the four new ministries being supported by St. Mark's Cares for 2020. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, Reverend Benji Sayre, the Executive Director of the Wesley Foundation, will join us at St. Mark's to share the message of the foundation with us. And on March 24<sup>th</sup>, St. Mark's will prepare a meal to serve to the students at the Wesley House on the University of Cincinnati campus. Check out the St. Mark's Cares bulletin board for a sign-up sheet.



# Spotlight on Missions

## FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERING AT SHARED HARVEST



### SERVE CITY

Serving a meal on  
February 24th

# *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 them 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 at Olive Garden, 7179 Dixie Highway (Rt. 4) in Fairfield on **Wednesday, March 18th at noon.**

Please see Bob or Carol Pittman or call 829-4548 for reservations by noon, Monday, March 16th.



The March get together of the Ruth Circle is **Friday, March 20th at 1 pm** in Fellowship Hall. There will be a short program and refreshments.

All women are invited.

Please see or call Pam Guynes (779-9192) or Charlene Miller (844-6793) if you have questions.



## USED BOOK SALE Opportunity to help with Mission Projects

Ruth Circle will be having a Used Book Sale the 4th Sunday of every month. We will have a mobile book cart, in the Narthex, before and after the service. There will be different books added each month. The cost for used books will be a donation.

100% of the funds generated, by the book sale, will go toward a variety of Mission Projects, such as Broken Bus, Shared Harvest, Fairfield Food Pantry, & etc. or our church's needs such as the Parking Lot Fund or Youth Mission Trip.

Please stop by our Book Cart to find a book or two and make a donation toward Mission Projects. If you have questions, please contact Alethea LaMar (319-750-1323) or Pam Guynes (513-779-9162).



## SAVE THE DATE - THURSDAY, MAY 7th

The Ladies Monday Craft Group will be sponsoring the Annual Salad Luncheon on Thursday, May 7th.

Also, there will be a selection of Crafts and a Book Sale.

All profits will go toward the Parking Lot Fund.

Salad donations sign-ups will be in April. Make plans now to attend and invite your friends.

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS



The Youth Group One-on-One sessions are wrapping up, and only a few more youth need to meet with Erin. If you're in grades 6th-12th and haven't already met, please reach out to Erin at (513) 748-1085.

On March 1st, 13 youth & adults will be going to see "Dead Serious... About Life" in Mason.

If you would also like to attend, please contact Erin about getting a ticket.

Last but not least, the Youth Room! Erin has been in touch with Bob Hamp, Trustee Chair, and they will be planning a work day (for both youth and any adults who want to help), so be on the look out for more information on that!

## SCOUT NEWS



Pack 969 was excited to help at Scout Sunday on February 9th.

We have an upcoming fundraiser. The boys will be selling Camp cards to help them go to camp this year. The cards are \$10.00 a piece. The cards provide a discount at many local Stores/Restaurants. Pictured are some of the stores available. There is also an app for the cards to help any online shoppers. While at camp, they will swim, camp, shoot bows and arrows and have a blast for 3 days.



Our February meeting will be lead by the Wabelos this year. They are going to demonstrate/explain to the younger scouts what each word in the Scout law means. The Scout law is: A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.

The Tigers and Lions are learning about team building and being part of a community.

March is our graduation, all of our AOL (Arrow of Light) boys will be crossing over into Boy Scouts. While we are sad to see them go, we are excited for the new adventures that await them.

Have a great day.

Danielle, Troop Leader

# **St. Mark's Ad. Council Meeting**

## **February 11, 2020**

Members present: Pastor Joe Payne, Steve Nguyen, Pam Guynes, Charlotte Tierney, ErinTheodor, Peggy Smith, Pat Fassnacht, Bob Hamp, Kym Nguyen and Sue Luken.

I. Call to order. The meeting was called to order by Steve Nguyen at 7pm.

II. Review Minutes from Jan. meeting: The minutes were reviewed, no corrections were found. The motion to accept the Jan. minutes was made by Erin Theodor, 2nd by Kym Nguyen. The vote minutes were approved as read.

III. Monthly Committee Reports: The Committee Reports had been distributed by email for everyone to read previous to the meeting. Discussion was open for any comments or questions on each report. Erin shared on the upcoming "Parents Night Out" that she had received a message from one of the Boy Scout parents an interest in bringing their child and possibly a friend. She also commented that this activity is one she would like to begin having every other month.

There was no other discussion on any of the reports. A motion to approve all of the reports as presented was made by Kym Nguyen, 2nd by Bob Hamp. The motion was approved.

IV. Review Finance Report/Updates: Steve Nguyen opened up discussion about Apportionments by explaining how they had been dealt with in the past under different leadership, not as a criticism but just to have some conversation and get some feedback. He had brought to our attention that at times the Finance Committee had looked at our over-all financial health and at times had chosen to not fully pay the Apportionments until we were able to better fulfill our budgetary needs. There was some healthy discussion on this topic, with a variety of people sharing their input and opinions. Pastor Joe shared that he appreciated Steve's concern. He also explained that the apportionments are, in fact, a portion of our whole budget, and if we are to remain United Methodists we are ethically obligated to pay our fair share. Our apportionments represent our fair share in the whole connectional giving of our district, conference, and denomination. Pastor Joe also shared some history, that St. Mark's would have never been established in 1953 had it not been for the full support coming from other churches' connectional giving (apportionments). Both Pastor Joe and Steve stated their appreciation to be able to have this open and honest conversation. The report was approved.

V. Pastor's Report: Pastor Joe shared about some of his work with the parish, including conducting 5 worship services including Epiphany, Baptismal Renewal, and Scout Sunday; shared appreciated for Patrick from "The Fringe Coffee House" as well and how he was extremely well received. He reported that he has made more than 47 Pastoral Touch Point calls since the beginning of the year by means of; phone calls, cards, texts, emails, and personal visits. He also reported that we have had 7 deaths since our All Saints Day Service, and thanked the Care and Nurture Committee for their funeral meal ministry.



Pastor Joe made us aware of the following upcoming dates and activities:

- \* Ash Wed. Feb.26 - Choir, Communion, Imposition of Ashes 7pm.
- \* Lenten Worship Series. Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.
- \* Benji Sayer preaching on the 8<sup>th</sup> and
- \* Fifth Sunday brunch on the 29.<sup>th</sup>
- \* April 5 - Palm Sun. Cantata; **(UPDATE: CANTATA ON EASTER SUNDAY)**
- \* April 9 - Maundy Thursday;
- \* April 12 - Easter

Pastor Joe shared that the "Healthy Congregation Workshop" for all of the leaders will take place after worship beginning on March 1 from 11-12:30 (Sessions 1 & 2 combined) and then March 8, 15, & 22 from 11-12pm (for Sessions 3, 4, & 5. One session each week.) **[Update: only the March 1 date will be held. The other Sundays will be reserved for a New Member Class. ]**

VI. General Conference Updates: Pastor Joe shared that the Protocol was written into legislative format and submitted to three – four different annual conferences for their consideration and possible forwarding to General Conference in May for consideration. Pastor Joe plans to attend at least part of the General Conference which happens May 5-15, 2020 in Minneapolis.

VII. Capital Campaign Discussions: Pastor Joe led a discussion on timing for the campaign, including the possibility of holding off until after General Conference, or possibly even in the fall. No specific date was set. It was also suggested by Kym Nguyen that we could still be thinking and maybe even approaching some people who we feel would have the gifts, talents and abilities to be on a "Campaign Committee." These persons could be in place when the time comes.

Steve Nguyen asked if we have ever considered an "Endowment Fund." The consensus was that this would be worthy for further discussion and research.

VIII. Closing prayer - As our meeting time came to an end, Pastor Joe closed us with prayer.

IX. Adjourned Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by; Sue Luken (Sub for Jennie Marshall)

# St. Mark's Financial Update

Tim Mislansky, Finance Committee Chairperson

Greetings St. Mark's Family,



Total giving and receipts for January were nearly \$31,000. The giving was helped by in part by a few of our households who gave their entire 2020 pledge in January. Our expenses for the month were \$31,500. So we ended up spending about \$500 more than we brought in for the month. On a positive note, the giving was up about \$3,000 from January of 2019.

We have completed our 2020 pledge campaign.

	2020	2019	Change
<b>Pledge Cards Received</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>&lt;13&gt;</b>
<b>Pledged Dollars</b>	<b>\$233,554</b>	<b>\$267,709</b>	<b>&lt;\$34,155&gt;</b>

Fifteen of the 67 pledge cards were completed by households who did not pledge in 2019. Thank you!

But, even after receiving these new giving estimates, our total pledges are still thirteen less than received the previous year. Our shortfall compared to 2019 is a substantial \$34,155.

We are estimating that the expenses for 2020 will be similar to 2019 based on requests; however, the much lower estimated giving makes it difficult to determine how much money we have for our ministries. There is no question we will need to evaluate all of our budget requests.

Over 20 active households that pledged in 2019 have yet to complete a pledge card for 2020. It is not too late to give us your best estimate of your giving for 2020. A pledge card is not a contract or a firm commitment, it's simply an intention of your giving for the year. Cards are on the back table in the sanctuary. Fill one out and drop it in the offering plate. We are all in ministry together. Every dollar counts. Thank you.

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

Sincerely,  
Tim Mislansky

# *March Birthdays and Anniversaries*

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

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

1 - Steve Griffin  
1 - Kristina Stanifer  
2 - Mike Aiken  
5 - Lee Brinkmeyer  
11 - Denny Mullen  
13 - Nick Alcorn  
14 - Kathy Fitzpatrick  
16 - Mark Luken  
19 - Paul Huelsman  
20 - Chris Beiser  
20 - Ben Hartwig  
20 - Mike Kinnard  
21 - Colin George (13 yrs.)  
21 - Tyler George (13 yrs.)  
22 - Pat Fassnacht  
22 - Carolyn Janosik  
22 - Kaden Theiss (9 yrs.)  
23 - Bill Dichtl  
23 - Jim Jones  
24 - Barb Lowry  
24 - Judy Scofield  
24 - Cameron Smoot  
27 - Dick Brewer  
27 - Bob Grammel  
27 - Doreen Robinson



## **MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**



1 - Jim & Betsy Jones  
6 - Don & Marilyn Stewart  
7 - Wayne & Tari Randall  
7 - Andy & Ann Shellman  
9 - Mike & Pepper Long  
17 - Rich & Joyce Zugelter  
20 - Taylor & Kaitlyn Wessels  
29 - Greg & Marilyn Peters



St. Mark's Family,

Bud and I want to thank you  
for calls, cards and food  
while I was down with  
Pneumonia. Our St. Mark's  
family is the greatest.  
We love you all.

The Aydlett's



Dear Church Family,

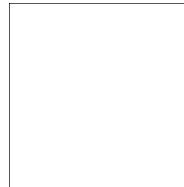
Thank you so much for the  
lovely planter. I so appreciate  
your thoughtfulness, love  
and concern. You are very  
special.

Ann McWilliam

**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](http://fairfieldstmarks.com)

Worship Service:  
Sundays 9:30 am