



SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S

JULY 2020

THE MISSION OF ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.



Dear St. Mark's Church Family,

Greetings in the name of the one who walks with us through every valley.

I am so proud of you, St. Mark's. Last April I suggested that we might be apart through at least June. Well, as I write this it is June 30th and we are into the 16th week since we last worshipped in the same room. It has not been easy. These past few months have been devastating for those who have lost loved ones to the virus. Family members of some of our own who have passed away from other causes have not been able to have a decent and honorable public memorial service for their dear ones. I am not alone in my wish that this coronavirus would disappear and be gone from here forever. We hope for a vaccine to be developed and available to us as soon as possible, but we are told that will not be for perhaps another year. It has been a long three months, and it will be longer.

And yet, you have persevered. You are holding up. We are still the church, whether we are together or apart. I am proud of you!

I am most proud of our staff and key servant leaders who have helped to guide us through this pandemic. Our worship team – Chris, Sue, Zach, John, Rick, Peggy, Kayla and now Chelsey – have been a blessing to work with. I am so grateful to them. I thank Peggy for keeping our children and families in mind, for mailing resources, for her children's messages. For her kind and warm spirit. I thank Julie, for her eagerness and energy in leading St. Mark's Cares, as well as responding to God's call to lead our youth ministry. God's speed, Julie, as you begin this ministry! I am most grateful to our committees for their devotion to the cause of the work of Christ, and for the VBS team, who is undertaking a VBS like none we have had before. For our callers. For our trustees. For our Care and Nurture folks. For all of our leaders I have failed to recall as I write this letter. God bless all of you!

I am grateful for your response to the recent worship series, Roll Down, Justice. You are understanding that our faith in Christ leads us to seek and to work for justice for all people, especially the poor and the oppressed, for people of all colors and creeds. On this journey of faith we never stop learning how to become stronger disciples of Jesus Christ. God bless you.

We don't know what the future holds – how long we will remain apart. We are going down a path we have never gone down before. However, you have shown strength and resolve, and I have confidence that we will emerge from this pandemic stronger than before.

Let us continue to pray for one another, to be present and for one another, to support one another through our gifts – financial and otherwise, to be in service for one another, to be witnesses for one another. Let us be a light for this community and world.

I am blessed to be your pastor and friend,

Pastor Joe



Staff Parish is very pleased to announce that the position of Director of Youth Ministries has been filled. On June 25th, SPRC met at the shelter house and interviewed our candidate and it was unanimous. Please join us in welcoming Julie Mislansky to our staff!



We are thrilled to have her on board and to quote her in the interview: "I already know and love the youth and cannot wait to get started". We feel the exact same Julie.



We are still looking to fill Brenda's job. if you know of anyone at all that might be interested, please let me know. I am happy to reach out and talk to them about the position.

Please have them call me at 513-616-6822. (Kimberly Nguyen)

St. Mark's Financial Update

Tim Mislansky, Finance Committee Chairperson

Greetings St. Mark's Family,



It's only been about 3 weeks since I wrote our last update, so not much has changed. Our church finances continue to be in a good position because of your strong support. Giving for the month of June is expected to exceed giving in May as well as June of last year. And our expenses continue to be reasonable. All of this relates to a solid cash position. In fact, our account balance hasn't been this high since June 2017. We have about \$12,000 in cash more than what we need to have set aside for our designated accounts.

All of our major payments, including our loan payments and apportionments, continue to be paid on time. We've paid about \$20,000 in apportionments so far this year and are on pace to meet our goal of full payment. And we've reduced our two loans to a total of \$62,400.

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.

Sincerely,
Tim Mislansky

PICK ME UP MOMENTS - JULY 2020

- July 1: I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken for He is right by me. Psalm 16:8
- July 2: Kindness is more than deeds. It's attitude, an expression, a look, a touch. It is anything that lifts another person. Plato
- July 3: Always find a reason to laugh. It may not add years to your life but it will surely add life to your years. George Bernard Shaw
- July 4: Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud. Maya Angelou
- July 5: Remember God has always used ordinary people to accomplish extra-ordinary things. John C. Pingree
- July 6: Our God is an awesome God and He loves to come to us in ways He knows will change us.
- July 7: God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does. Martin Luther
- July 8: A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows. Francis of Assisi
- July 9: A smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention. Oscar Wilde
- July 10: The greatest thing that we can do is to help somebody know that they are loved and capable of loving. Fred Rogers
- July 11: May the joy of simple things color the canvas of your soul. Mary Davis
- July 12: Real strength has to do with helping others. Fred Rogers
- July 13: Encourage one another and build each other up. 1Thessalonians 5:11
- July 14: Stop and take a moment to admire all the beautiful things you take for granted every day. Ronald Dahl
- July 15: A beautiful day begins with a beautiful mindset. John Geiger
- July 16: Love is a smile, a wave, a kind comment, a compliment, sacrifice, service, and selflessness.
- July 17: Every experience God gives us, every person He puts in our lives is the perfect preparation for the future only He can see. Corrie ten Boom
- July 18: Faith isn't a feeling. It's a choice to trust God even when the road ahead seems uncertain. Dave Willis
- July 19: Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun, like struggle. To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, here and now. Fred Rogers
- July 20: No one can help everyone, but everyone can help someone. Ronald Reagan
- July 21: When you enter His presence with praise, He enters your circumstances with power.
- July 22: Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. Psalm 56:3
- July 23: Carry joy in your heart wherever you go!
- July 24: Prayer is designed to adjust us to God's will, not adjust His to ours.
- July 25: Kind words are like honey, sweet to the soul. Proverbs 16:24
- July 26: I pray God will use me to change lives.
- July 27: Faith means you have peace even when you don't have all the answers. Joyce Meyer
- July 28: Go the extra mile. It's never crowded. Dr. Wayne D. Dyer
- July 29: Lord, please keep us encouraged, especially when our journey gets rough, our faith grows weak and our spirits get lonely.
- July 30: Let us not grow weary of doing good. Galatians 6:9
- July 31: God created you to do amazing things. Ephesians 2:10



St. Mark's Cares Update

Julie Mislansky

Thank you for supporting the missions that we have chosen to serve with our gifts and prayers!

This past month we sponsored a “snack food” drive for **The Broken Bus Ministry**. Once again St. Mark’s friends and family did not disappoint! A complete van-full of snacks and drinks were collected and now fill the once bare shelves at “the bus stop”. Here is a tally of what you shared with our homeless friends:

- 264 bottles of Gatorade and Powerade**
- 155 cans of soda**
- 360 bags of chips**
- 138 bags of sweet snacks**
- 332 peanut butter and cheese cracker packages**
- 296 cereal bars**
- 219 fruit cups**
- 168 packages of nuts and almonds**
- 35 bags of beef jerky**

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St. Mark's Opportunities

We are currently collecting **Covid 19 Hygiene Kits**. These will be given to our neighbors returning to their communities after being in prison. They are at high risk for spreading the virus or contracting the virus. These hygiene bags, along with handmade face masks made by our Monday Craft Ladies and notes of encouragement from all of us, will help them towards a positive re-entry. Please pray for those who might receive these bags. *We collected 35 hygiene bags.* They will be taken to Faith UMC, a collection site, and will be distributed through the "All in Community", a ministry of the West Ohio Conference.



JULY MISSIONS AND OUTREACH **Dougie and Ray's and UMCOR**

Believe it or not, it is time to start collecting school supplies! **Dougie and Ray's**, a ministry that serves **the students of Fairfield City Schools**, has started its campaign to fill brand new backpacks with needed school supplies and distribute them to local children and youth. St. Mark's Cares will be taking donations for this cause the entire month of July. There will be collection bins in the Fellowship Hall and donations can be dropped off weekdays during office hours.

A drive-thru collection is planned for Wednesday, July 22 from 6-8 pm and Thursday, July 23 from 10 to noon.

Items needed:

- Glue sticks
- #2 pencils
- Elmer's glue, 4 oz. bottles
- Dry erase markers
- Crayola crayons, 24 count
- Colored pencils, 12-24 count
- Packs of index cards, 3 x 5
- Packs of loose-leaf paper, wide or college ruled
- Composition notebooks
- Packs of blue, black or red pens





What's coming up for St. Mark's missions and outreach?

UMCOR

St. Mark's has a long history of supporting **UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief**. We have assembled and donated flood buckets, layette kits, and hygiene kits. We also take a yearly special offering on UMCOR Sunday. The Sunday is typically in March, but because of the disruptions caused by Covid-19, we postponed the offering.

We will collect this special offering on July 26th.



Here is more information about UMCOR and this special offering from the United Methodist Church website.

“For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief’s ministry of relief and hope. UMCOR’s work of alleviating human suffering around the world includes disaster Relief and supplies, disaster risk reduction, health, and humanitarian development.

Gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) covers the costs of doing business. This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. UMCOR has no source of revenue for administration except from UMCOR Sunday.

Because of UMCOR Sunday, when you hear about a disaster of humanitarian crisis and you give to UMCOR, you can be assured that one hundred percent of the money you designate goes toward people in need.”

We will be sharing more information about UMCOR and the work they do during worship services in July. We will also share more details about how you can give towards this special offering as it gets closer.



LIVE EVENT ONLINE

at www.fairfieldstmarks.com
or
www.facebook.com/fairfieldstamrks

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

Sunday, July 12 - Thursday, July 16

6:30 to 7:30 pm

**All supplies will be available to pick up at the church
the week before VBS.**

Registrations are now being taken at the link below:

<https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/StMarksFairfieldUMC/register/>

Register by July 3rd and receive a free VBS t-shirt!

Please call Peggy Smith if you have any questions - 307-4509

MASKS AVAILABLE

**The Monday Craft Ladies have masks available for anyone that would like them.
Please call the church office if you need them.**

**Also, thanks to everyone that has donated material, elastic and money
to buy supplies for the masks.**



July Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Owen Becker (9 yrs.)
- 1 - Rick Kiefer
- 1 - Judy Klingel
- 1 - Autumn Roemer
- 2 - Merianne Cardas
- 3 - Jody Cooper
- 3 - Devin Goodman
- 3 - Kayla Goodman
- 3 - Byron Jones
- 4 - Marilyn Peters
- 5 - Bob Miracle
- 6 - Zoey Muse (7 yrs.)
- 7 - Ann McWilliam
- 8 - Elijah Griffin (10 yrs.)
- 8 - Don Kemen
- 8 - Greg Pullem
- 8 - Dan Scofiele
- 9 - Debi Brewer
- 12 - Debbie Flannery
- 12 - Morgan Theodor (5 yrs.)
- 14 - Vicki Cavender
- 14 - Cheryl Kemen
- 16 - Alicia Booker
- 17 - Ben Chambers
- 17 - Becky Mendenhall
- 19 - Mary Pierson
- 20 - Linda Payne
- 21 - Tim Mullen
- 22 - Kraig Cavender
- 22 - Helmut Espig
- 22 - Marilyn Stewart
- 25 - Mark Hensler
- 27 - Elizabeth Bunte
- 27 - Carol Gering
- 27 - Gale Logan
- 27 - Brodie Theiss
- 28 - Jean Cottrill
- 29 - Penny Dole
- 29 - Iris Jones
- 30 - Zach Dichtl

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Dick & Edith Davis
- 11 - Shane & Brooke Becker
- 11 - Wes & Debbie Flannery (50 yrs.)
- 11 - Ben & Dollie Gallihugh
- 11 - Tim & Julie Mislansky
- 12 - Dick & Terri Roemer
- 15 - Bob & Carol Pittman
- 19 - Rob & Mary Mastronicola
- 22 - Jim & Sue Beckett
- 22 - Matt & Samantha Luken
- 26 - Bob & Sharon Hamp
- 26 - Michael & Stephanie Paige
- 30 - Ira & Mary Begley



Dear Church,

Thank you so much for the cards and notes after my mom passed. Although it was difficult at the time, I know she wasn't in pain and passed away peacefully getting her hair done to see dad. It was God's perfect timing. Thanks again for the thoughtful cards and notes.

God bless,
Karen Smith

(513) 844-1818
Fax: (513) 844-2828
fairfieldstmarks.com

Worship Service:
Sundays 9:30 am
Live Streamed

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
4601 Fairfield Avenue
Fairfield, OH 45014

513-844-1818