



SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S

NOVEMBER 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,

I love vegetable soup! Its many ingredients - unique in color, shape, texture, and flavor - come together to make a meal that warms our hearts as well as our stomachs.

We aim for St. Mark's to be a church much like a big pot of wonderful soup. What do I mean by this? Recently, our Administrative Council formulated a Welcome Statement that helps to explain what I mean by this "soup analogy." This Statement first appeared in our August/September Spirit of St. Mark's, and I reprint it here:

"We are an all-inclusive faith community, where everyone is welcome at God's table. Truly, all people - all genders, races, ages, abilities, cultures, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, economic circumstances, family configurations, or difference of faith perspectives - are invited to fully participate in the life of our faith community. "

Our leaders worked hard on this statement. They also recognized that putting together this statement doesn't mean much by itself. So, they went on:

"We shall continually strive to back these words with our actions and to call out, resist, and fight against injustice and oppression wherever we see it in our community, our nation, and our world."

This is who we are, or at least who we strive to be. Of course, as you know, we're not all serious. We're a church that loves to have fun together, too.

To be sure, we've been challenged during this pandemic. Like everyone else, we've had to adjust. Still, at our core, we continue to live by our mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Your partner in ministry,



Join Pastor Joe in this 6-Session Small Group Study
FAITHFUL *and* INCLUSIVE
The Bible, Sexuality and the United Methodist Church

This video-based study, facilitated by Pastor Joe, will explore how we can be completely faithful to the authority of Scripture and fully inclusive of LGBTQ people. The video features author-presenter Rev. Rob Fuquay, pastor of St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis. Rev. Fuquay will lead us in a study of the seven biblical passages most commonly cited on this topic. A goal during this study will be to nurture a climate of trust, listening, and grace.

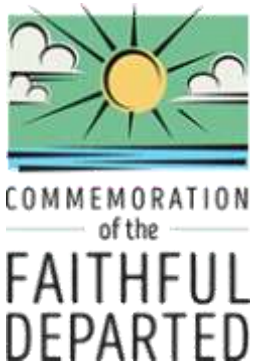
At this time, registration will be limited to twelve persons, so sign up early. Call Brenda at 513-844-1818.

Six Sessions 6:30—7:30 Thursdays
January 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11

In Memoriam

ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 1ST, 2020

On this Sunday, St. Mark's will recognized and honor all those that passed away since last year's All Saint's Sunday on November 3rd.



Evelyn Rewerts	November 16, 2019
John Best	November 22, 2019
John McWilliam	November 29, 2019
Don Olson	December 4, 2019
Marjorie Gaddis	December 26, 2019
Max Stover	December 26, 2019
Lew Hollinger	January 14, 2020
Charlene Pullem	April 7, 2020
Chet Hard	May 31, 2020
Russ Carr	June 10, 2020
Betsy Jones	October 7, 2020

CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE

Sunday, November 8th

4 pm - Sanctuary

Everyone is invited to attend.
All chairpersons and members
of the Administrative Board should attend.

MUSIC MINISTRY
Chris Beiser - Director of Music



One of the many surprising blessings that has occurred through this pandemic is the opportunity for choir members to gather on Wednesday evenings and visit congregant's homes. We try to get to 3-4 homes before it gets too dark, standing socially distanced in the yard or driveway singing 4-5 hymns.

We begin at each destination with the simple, beautiful chorus, Surely the presence. I sing the chorus through the first time and then the choir members join in the second time with haunting blended parts. Each time we sing, I reflect on the words and how special these moments are during these unsure times.

SURELY THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE

Singing at sunset to Donna Hughes as we overlook the manicured grounds of Walden Pond golf course, or standing on the patio/deck of Charlene Miller feeling like we are up in a treehouse. The fall foliage is gorgeous surrounding us in the yards of the Klingel's, Marlis Hatton, Virginia Shaw, and the Miracle's. His presence was there each and every time!

I CAN FEEL HIS MIGHTY POWER AND HIS GRACE

The hymns are enjoyed by others besides just our congregants. Betty Stover had neighbors all around her house listening from their yards, and her cat was most attentive the whole time! A lady came out on her front porch and a bicyclist stopped to listen at the Mullen's. Their dog was appreciative of our singing too! Cindy and Mike Booker have become our fans, listening with Jean Stivers and then inviting Carolyn Janosik and neighbors to listen when we came to the home of Cindy's parents, Rich and Joyce Zugelter. Whether we have 6 or 12 singers, His power and grace are felt and are ever present.

I CAN HEAR THE BRUSH OF ANGEL'S WINGS, I SEE GLORY ON EACH FACE

Emotions are felt all around us. Bob Grammel sheds tears of joy upon our arrival, and Jean Bennett says again and again how much she misses everyone. Watching Eleanor McCollum smile the entire time of our visit, and the Davis's break into applause after every hymn. I can barely keep my voice from cracking as Ben and Dollie Gallihugh join in the singing, or while at the Beckett's, Jim shouts his approval to each individual singing by name. All involved are touched in a very special way.

SURELY THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE

Maybe now more than ever! As we sang for members of the Wednesday night Bible Study, there was a calm assurance that we were truly in a blessed time of being in the presence of the Lord.

These evenings have brought amazing healing, happiness, and fellowship. "So do not fear for I am with you, do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand." Isaiah 41:10.

I close with Ephesians 5:19. "Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord!"

Love to all!
Chris Beiser





St. Mark's Financial Update

Tim Mislansky, Finance Committee Chairperson

Greetings St. Mark's Family,

How great was it to see people back inside the church worshipping recently!

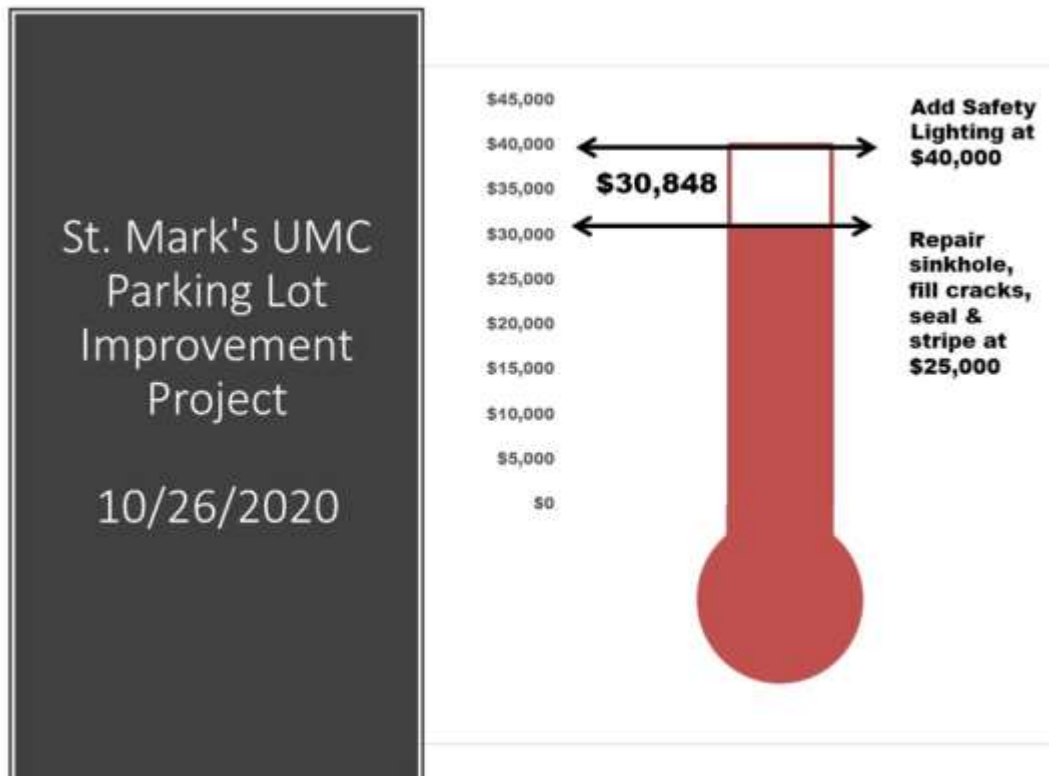
It was wonderful to see people and reconnect in a social distant manner. And for those who have chosen to worship from home, we certainly understand and want you to put your health and safety first. Despite not being in the building, the finance committee and the money of St. Mark's have been busy.

Here's an update on where we stand financially.

We should end October with about \$26,000 in total giving which is about \$3,500 higher than the prior month. Total giving for the year is \$280,000 and up 5% over the prior year. Our giving is as high as it's been since 2012!

Expenses in September were pretty typical except for the \$8,600 we spent to repair the driveway and concrete at the parsonage. We borrowed about \$7,000 of this money from our line of credit. We remain on target to pay our apportionments this year. This will mark the third year in a row when we've paid our apportionments!

And in more good news, since last month's newsletter article, we've received almost \$10,000 in gifts to the project. We know have enough funds to repair the sinkhole, fill the cracks, seal the lot and re-strip it. We are working to get the contractor scheduled before the weather gets too cold. And we've got just a little more than \$9,000 to go to be cover the costs to install the additional lighting in the parking. Thank you to all those who have given the last few weeks and if you haven't, there's still time! The chart below shows our current status:



Financial Update - continued

We should end October with almost \$50,000 on deposit at the credit union and about \$35,000 in bills due and designated accounts.

Total Cash	\$50,000
Less: Bills Due	\$3,000
Less: Parking Lot Fund	\$30,800
Less: Other Designated Accounts	\$11,500
Cushion	\$4,700

We have designated accounts for a variety of items, such as our loan payment, youth ministry, children’s ministry, funeral meals/nurture & care, choir and St. Mark’s Cares/missions. When you give to a designated fund, we are required under rules from the conference to use that money solely for the purpose designated. Our practice is to “pay the bills” from the designated funds. So, if we have money in a youth fund, and the youth group has expenses, it comes from the designated money before coming out of the general fund.

The only exceptions to this is St. Mark’s Cares money – which always goes to the missions we support and the parking lot fund. While giving to designated in some ways is good, it does limit how the church can spend the money. We don’t have a designated fund called “Electric Bill” or one called “Staff Salaries”, so we ask that as you consider designated giving you think about the general fund as well. Designated giving should be above your normal giving, so the church has money to operate and fill its broader mission.

If you’ve gotten to this point in the article, thanks for reading and having an interest in your church’s finance. If 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

ST. MARK'S MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Julie Mislansky



October has been a busy month feeding the hungry and clothing the cold! On October 5th, we dropped off a meal to the folks at **Serve City**. We have really stepped this up and have taken a meal there at least every other month during Covid. We have a big meal planned closer to Thanksgiving, and we will be asking for donations of food - look for that later in this newsletter.

On the 24th, St. Marks members, Sue McDaniel, Tim Dutey, Jenni Hensler, Cindy Booker, and Lynne Schumacker, provided a home-cooked meal of chili, cornbread, and fresh fruit for **The Broken Bus**.

Lastly, we have been collecting coats and winter gear all month and we are pleased to announce we have received an abundance of articles:

45 coats, 18 scarves, 13 pairs of gloves, and 12 hats!

Donations will be shared with **The Broken Bus, The Caring Closet, and Serve City**.



In November, we will continue to help feed those less fortunate by having a 4-Day food drive to help fill the shelves for Thanksgiving at **the Fairfield Food Pantry**. These are the specific items they have asked for:

peanut butter spaghetti
canned corn and green beans
canned meals (beef stew, ravioli, etc.)
personal care products (toothpaste, shampoo, detergents)

The dates and times of the drive-through food drive are as follows:

Tuesday, Nov. 4th	4:00 -6:00
Wednesday, Nov. 5th	10:00 - noon
Tuesday, Nov. 11th	4:00 - 6:0
Wednesday, Nov. 12th	10 - noon

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH



On November 18th, we will prepare (and drop off - no serving) a pre-Thanksgiving meal to our friends at **Serve City**. The meal will consist of 4 extra - large casseroles, green beans, bread, desserts, and drinks.

There will be a **sign-up genius** posted on our Facebook page or you can contact Julie Mislansky and she will add your name to the sign-up. **Food will need to be at church on that day by 5:15.**



Our first blood drive in 12 years was such a success, we decided to keep it going! Giving blood is safe, doesn't take much time, and it literally CAN save a life! **We had 33 registered at our September drive and 14 of them were first-time donors!** Hoping to see many of you give again and also many new people!

MONDAY, NOV. 23rd 3:00 – 7:00

Here is the link to sign up - you can also find it on our church Facebook page - OR you can call Julie, 505-4061 and she will sign you up.

https://www.donortime.com/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/68679

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

JULIE MISLANSKY, YOUTH DIRECTOR



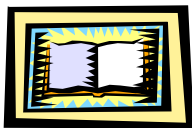
We continue to meet by Zoom as we monitor the Covid situation. The youth room is all ready for us and we hope to be in-person soon. **Youth parents, be sure to check your email from me.** I know the teens aren't big on checking email, but I do include all parents on the emails and there is sometimes info you need to know - thanks!
I have recently changed my email address, so look for knauffjj@icloud.com

Thanks to Gunnar for helping out at Trunk or Treat! Thanks to Jenn for stopping by on the church clean-up day to help in the youth room! Thank you, Layton, for painting the bench for the youth room!

I am planning a **serve-day on Tuesday, November 3rd** while you are all off school. There is much sorting and organizing to be done at The Broken Bus and I would love your help! I will plan 2 two-hour sessions during the afternoon so we can keep the groups small enough for social distancing.

Youth, check your email and/or texts to sign up for a time if you are interested.

This is good for school service hours!
Plus you get to spend a couple of hours
with me and Zach.



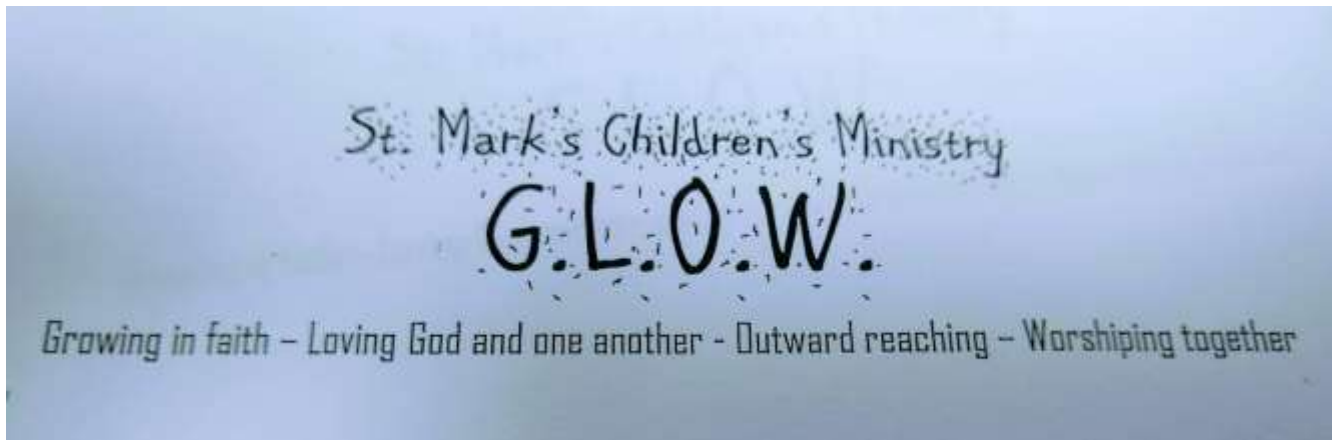
PRESENTATION OF THIRD GRADE BIBLES Sunday, October 25, 2020

Pictured below are the third graders that were able to attend worship that day.
Lauren Leyrer, daughter of Eric & Michelle Leyrer.
Casey Theodor, son of Justin & Erin Theodor.
Owen Becker, son of Shane & Brooke Becker, couldn't attend worship.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

PEGGY SMITH, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES



Hello Families,

As you all know, we began in person worship Sunday (October 25). Even though we will be in worship together, we will not resume Sunday school and nursery care until Nov. 29th. This will give the team a little more time to be sure we have servant leaders in place and procedures for best practices in place to assure everyone is safe.

Some of you do not plan to return right away, and of course we fully understand that is the right course for you and your family. I will continue to mail your curriculum to your children each week. Don't forget that the video each week is posted on our **St. Mark's UMC Children and Family Ministry facebook group.** The videos are really fun and well done. I think your children will like them.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Text or call 513 307-4509, email p.smith@fairfieldstmarks.com

Peace,
Peggy Smith

Upcoming dates:

Nov. 29 - GLOW class and Nursery care resume.

Advent Celebration - Date to be announced soon.

St. Mark's Opportunities

(Fellowship, Participation, Study, Service)

CIRCLE



RUTH CIRCLE NEWS

We will not be restarting Ruth Circle until at least January. We will provide updated information as it gets closer to January.

We miss all of you and hope we can be together soon.

Pam Guynes



Please call the church office if you would like to have flowers some Sunday on the Altar. The price is \$14.50 each vase.

Orders must be received by end of day on Wednesday.

You can get the flowers after the service, Monday morning, or call the office to arrange a time.



A limited number of tickets have been reserved for St. Mark's for the Christmas showing at LaComedia Dinner Theater on **Friday, December 4th.**

Arrival time would be at 10:30 am. The price is \$40 each person.

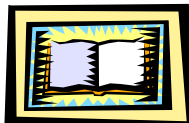
Reservations and payment must be made by November 11th.

If you are interested, please see Brenda Smoot.

BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, November 23rd.
3 - 7 pm Fellowship Hall

All information on page 6.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday night **7 pm Bible Study** is now meeting in the Fellowship Hall, social distancing and everyone wearing masks.

This Bible Study is facilitated by Iris Jones.

NOVEMBER PICK ME UP MOMENTS

Thanks to Carol Pittman

- Nov. 01: Every morning is a fresh start. Wake up with a thankful heart. Kristen Butler
- Nov. 02: He will sustain you. Isaiah 46:4
- Nov. 03: We are more powerful when we empower each other. Unknown
- Nov. 04: You have no idea the number of people that God may want to influence through you. Andy Stanley
- Nov. 05: My To-Do-List for today: Count my blessings; Practice kindness; let go of what I can't control; Listen to my heart; Be productive, yet calm; Just breathe. Unknown
- Nov. 06: Everywhere you go, leave a glitter trail of kindness behind you— someone who needs it may just pick it up. Unknown
- Nov. 07: Re-set, re-adjust, re-start, re-focus---As many times as you need to. Unknown
- Nov. 08: You keep me in perfect peace as I trust in You. Isaiah 26:3
- Nov. 09: There is always something to be grateful for. Arthur Barnes
- Nov. 10: Things to remember: You don't have to be perfect; Having a bad day is OK; Small steps are also progress; Asking for help is strength; People love and respect you. Unknown.
- Nov. 11: Do things for people not because of who they are or what they do in return, but because of who you are. Rabbi Harold S. Kushner
- Nov. 12: Listen for God's voice in everything you do and everywhere you go; He's the one that will keep you on track. Proverbs 3:6
- Nov. 13: When gratitude becomes you default setting, life changes. Nancy Leigh DeMoss
- Nov. 14: God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7
- Nov. 15: Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14
- Nov. 16: There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others. Mandy Hale
- Nov. 17: Kindness has a beautiful way of reaching down into a weary heart and making it shine like the rising sun. Unknown
- Nov. 18: God is not an option, He's a necessity. Unknown
- Nov. 19: Sometimes music is the only medicine that the heart and soul need. Unknown
- Nov. 20: There is a lot that is good in your life---don't take it for granted. Don't get so focused on the struggles that you miss the gift of today. Joel Osteen
- Nov. 21: Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. Helen Keller
- Nov. 22: You are making a difference every day. Unknown
- Nov. 23: Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions. A. Einstein
- Nov. 24: A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions and the roots spring up and make trees. Amelia Earhart
- Nov. 25: Service doesn't have to be big and grandiose to be meaningful and make a difference. Cheryl A. Esplin
- Nov. 26: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. 2 Chronicles 16:34
- Nov. 27: God gave us music that we might pray without words. Unknown
- Nov. 28: When something goes wrong, take a moment to be thankful for the many more things that are still going right. Annie Gottlier
- Nov. 29: Do one act of kindness each day of the year and change 365 lives. Anthony D. Williams
- Nov. 30: Don't ever doubt your worth. Unknown

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 (13 yrs.)
- 2 - Pam Hard
- 2 - Peggy Smith
- 3 - Jaiden Grimes
- 3 - Virginia Shaw
- 4 - Cindy Mischell
- 6 - Mary Begley
- 6 - Mary Lou Knau
- 8 - Mallory Creager (8 yrs.)
- 8 - Gail Hartwig
- 10 - Greg Childress
- 11 - Don Moser
- 13 - Darlene Kuertz
- 14 - Kathy O'Connell
- 17 - Cliff Klug
- 18 - Evan McDaniel (11 yrs.)
- 19 - Jean Bennett
- 20 - Greg Peters
- 21 - Sue Combs
- 21 - Kylie Knau
- 22 - Vivian Brill
- 22 - Steve Nguyen
- 23 - John Prohaska
- 25 - Sharon Hamp
- 25 - Maria Mullen
- 25 - Molly Robinson (6 yrs.)
- 26 - Brenda Smoot
- 28 - Greg Kuertz
- 28 - Elaine Shreve
- 29 - Lynne Schumacker
- 29 - Justin Theodor
- 30 - Pastor Joe Payne



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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



St. Mark's Family,

Thanks to everyone that sent cards and for concerns and prayers when I was in hospital.

Dick Davis

THANKS,

Thank you for the so needed weeding done by Bob Hamp, Sue & Mark Luken. Thanks for the nice pumpkin, mum and mini chocolate chip pumpkin cakes brought by Sue.

Thanks for Chris Beiser & choir for singing hymns in my front yard.

Thanks to Brenda Smoot who sends me the weekly bulletin, monthly Spirit of St. Mark's & Upper Room.

God's blessing for bringing St. Mark's to me.

Love, Virginia Shaw

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, Julie Mislansky

St. Mark's UMC

4601 Fairfield Ave.

(513) 844-1818

Fax: (513) 844-2828

fairfieldstmarks.com

Worship Service:

Sundays 9:30 am

Live Streamed