



SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S

OCTOBER 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,

There is a lot of negative in the world right now. A lot of negative in our country. And, it's so easy to get caught up in the negative. I don't know about you, but I find it difficult to remain positive. If you find yourself "going negative" — speaking unkindly toward someone or about someone with words you later regret, my admittedly unsolicited advice to you is to, first of all, be kind to yourself. There is no sense beating yourself up, too. Be kind to yourself, and recognize that "These are the times that try men's (and women's) souls," as the patriot Thomas Paine said many years ago.

So, be kind to yourself, and then resolve to be kind to others. Make a decision to be kind and respectful to others, even to those with whom you vehemently disagree. Do not be afraid to speak up when you believe you hear a wrong spoken. Do not hesitate to offer another viewpoint. Continue the conversation. But, do so while remaining in relationship with others. It's not easy. I will be the first to admit I fail all the time! When I do fail, I try to be kind to myself, and then I vow once again to give kindness to others another try.

So much of what we read on social media is not worth repeating. But, the other day I read a post that I believe is worth sharing. It's rather simple:

"As the world fights to figure everything out, I'll be holding doors for strangers, letting people cut in front of me in traffic, saying good morning, keeping babies entertained in grocery lines, stopping to talk to someone who is lonely, tipping generously, waving at police, sharing food, giving children a thumbs-up, being patient with sales clerks, smiling at passersby, and buying a stranger a cup of coffee. Why? Because I will not stand to live in a world where love is invisible. Join me in showing kindness, understanding, and judging less. Be kind to a stranger, give grace to friends who are having a bad day, be forgiving with yourself. If you can't find kindness, BE kindness." - author unknown

This is the Gospel I want to live by, and I'm sure you do too.

Yours in Christ,

PS. I invite you to take a few moments to scan this month's *Spirit of St. Mark's*. It's chock-full of positive, life-affirming ministry happenings and opportunities. And, don't forget that in-person worship returns October 25 while continuing to offer live-stream. Check out the worship and building use guidelines approved by Administrative Council. Have a blessed October!



BUILDING GUIDELINES FOR ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOR MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS:

Approved by St. Marks Administrative Council 9/27/2020

For the safety and wellbeing of all who enter the St. Mark's United Methodist Church facility, all persons shall adhere to social distancing guidelines with the following limits on the number of individuals;

- a. Sanctuary – No more than 100 people gathering.
- b. Fellowship Hall – No more than 20 people gathering.
- c. Choir Room (Room No.107/109) – No more than 12 people gathering
- d. Picnic Shelter – No limit with social distancing (outside)
- e. Any other room that is opened up will have the gathering capacity posted on the door.

These Guidelines will replace the previous guidelines and remain in effect until revised by Administrative Council.

Groups and committees are encouraged to continue virtual meetings whenever possible.

If persons believe it necessary to meet inside the St. Mark's building, the following measures shall be taken:

1. As before, contact Brenda or the church office to schedule use of a room.
2. All persons shall do the following:
 - a. Enter through the kitchen door only.
 - b. Locate the Sign In / Sign Out Sheet found inside the kitchen door. The purpose of this sign-in / sign-out sheet is for contact tracing in the event it is discovered that someone was diagnosed or later diagnosed with Covid-19, and was at the church around the time of their illness (a copy of this sheet is on the last page of these Guidelines).
 - c. Before signing in, affirm that you do not have any symptoms of Covid-19: a fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell.
 - d. If you can respond "No" to all questions, sign in with your name, the purpose of your visit, the room you intend to use, and the date and time of your arrival.
 - e. Use sanitizer when entering the building and on a regular basis. Hand sanitizer will be available at the kitchen door and at other locations in the building.
 - f. Maintain social distancing of at least 6-feet between persons.

- g. Wear facial masks. Extra facial masks will be available. Exceptions: Staff may work inside their own office without a mask. When outside their office they must wear a mask. They must meet with people outside their office.
- h. At this time, no food or drink will be served at any gathering; individuals can bring their own. Only covered drinks will be allowed the sanctuary.
- i. Clean and sanitize surfaces after use. This includes, but is not limited to, door handles, tables, hard surface seating, and all surfaces touched in restrooms. Cleaning / sanitizing solutions and paper towels will be available in all areas of the building.
- j. All Restrooms are open with two person capacity at a time.
- k. Exit the building through the kitchen door, making sure to “sign-out” with the time of your departure.
- l. These Guidelines are for anyone entering our building and are to be upheld by each of us individually and collectively. All of us will need to take responsibility to uphold these Guidelines.

“This is about protecting each other, It’s as old as the scriptures: **Love your neighbor.**”

We are yours in Christ,

The Administrative Council and Staff of St. Mark’s United Methodist Church

In-Person Worship Begins October 25

Worship Guidelines for St. Marks UMC

1. If you feel uncomfortable returning to public worship at this time, please continue to join us in worship online.
2. In accordance with the CDC recommendations, members of our church family who are immunocompromised or in a high-risk group are encouraged to continue joining us for worship online.
3. Every member is asked to do a health self-check before coming to the church. If you have a fever or have any symptoms of illness, please stay home and participate in worship online.
4. We are evaluating options for returning Sunday morning classes, nursery, children's and youth ministry. To continue to comply with Safe Sanctuary guidelines returning, this is contingent on identifying servant leaders.
5. Maximum capacity during worship, including the worship team, is 100.
6. We may require reserved seating for special services and will communicate as needed. When reserved seating applies; reservations will be taken one week before the service and those from the same household should sit together.
7. Services will continue to be livestreamed.
8. We will honor the General Safe Practices recommended by the CDC, the State of Ohio, and the West Ohio Annual Conference of the UMC.
9. The Safe Practices and other precautions we will be keeping include, but are not limited to, the following:

As an act of love and caring, everyone is required to wear face masks (over the age of 5) per Ohio guidelines while in the building.

- Hand-sanitizing stations will be available throughout the building.
- It will be a touchless experience. Greeters will hold doors open but will not be shaking hands, hugging or other forms of physical contact.
- Restrooms will be limited to two individuals at a time. Please follow the posted sanitizing instructions
- There will be no handouts or use of bulletins. Attendance cards will be in the pew.
- When arriving at church, entrance to worship will be through the door in the Narthex.
- Individuals will seat themselves, we will have pews closed so as to maintain appropriate social distancing. Please ensure at least 6ft between you and any non-family members in all directions.
- There will be no congregating in the halls, welcome center, parking lot, or other areas, before or after the service.
- There will be no coffee or donuts fellowship for the foreseeable future.
- Offering plates will not be passed during service. Offerings can be dropped into one of two Offering Boxes on either side of the just inside the main door of the Sanctuary. Of course, offerings can still be done online or mailed into the office.
- We will have congregational singing with masks. For the time being the choir will not be returning.
- The congregation will be dismissed in small groups after each Worship service. This is to discourage close contact as we exit the building and head to our cars.



St. Mark's Financial Update

Tim Mislansky, Finance Committee Chairperson

Greetings to my St. Mark's friends,

I am excited that we will be returning to in person service in late October. I've attended a vesper service recently and we had our last finance committee meeting socially distanced in the shelter. It's be wonderful to see people. 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 ended August with about \$45,000 on deposit at the credit union and about \$35,000 in bills due and designated accounts. This creates a \$10,000 cushion for us.

Our giving year-to-date has consistently been about 7% to 8% above the same period last year. In August, we had \$26,400 in total giving and spent about \$26,000. We were almost a perfect match for what we brought in versus what was spent. Our expenses were typical for the month except for \$4,500 related to repairs and maintenance on the heating/cooling system.

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. We've heard from the district and the conference that some churches that have historically paid are having difficulties due to decreased giving at this point. But not St. Mark's! We also continue to pay down our debt. In fact, we've nearly paid off the line of credit from when we upgraded the computer network 2 1/2 years ago. This gives us the opportunity to borrow against the line to repair the driveway and concrete at the parsonage. We will keep the same payment and pay the off in about a year.

And we received some great news from the conference recently. Thanks to the work of Julie Dichtl in developing our application, we received a grant of \$2,100 to upgrade our technology for streaming the worship service. The total project is \$2,800 and we only have to pay \$700 of it. The project will vastly increase the quality of our live stream on Sunday mornings.

We are also starting our budgeting process for 2021. Hard to believe that's only a few short months away. Finally, as a reminder we are fundraising for the parking lot improvement project. This includes repairs to the sinkhole in the parking lot as well as adding new light poles. The chart below shows our current status.

This project would make St. Mark's a safer place for those who use the building. If our fundraising falls short, we will need to borrow the money using our line of credit.

St. Mark's UMC
Parking Lot
Improvement
Project

09/24/2020



Please consider a meaningful contribution to this effort.

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



From Our Lay Leader - Sue Luken

This year's West Ohio Annual Conference was definitely a different experience. While we did not get to gather on the beautiful shores at Lakeside, we gathered together virtually. Pastor Joe, Brenda Smoot, Peggy Smith, Julie Mislansky and myself, while not together physically in the same location, were able to chat and communicate with each other while watching and participating from our individual locations! Clergy and all Delegates were able to vote on all issues and Recommendations via either personal computers or Smart Phone. Amazingly, there were no major technical difficulties and we were able to conduct the business of the 51st Session of the West Ohio Annual Conference. As always, it is a great honor to represent St. Mark's as your Lay Delegate. Please read the attached summary of our work together below.

In HIS service, Sue Luken

2020 West Ohio Conference Annual Session Summary

From the September 15 West Ohio News Net Vol 13, Issue 92

The 51st session of the West Ohio Annual Conference was a virtual gathering of nearly 1,600 clergy and lay members. Bishop Gregory V. Palmer presided over the conference under the theme, "Be Not Afraid, God Is With Us."

Using the 23rd chapter of Revelation, Bishop Palmer preached about the uncertain times facing our nation, world and global church.

"In spite of the chaos; in spite of the wars; in spite of the rumors of war; in spite of the repression and suppression; in spite of tribalism; in spite of animus; in spite of our enmity; in spite of our alienation, God says, 'I'm going to make a home among you.' What a God! God does not abandon us. God is with us," Palmer said.

Mitchell Harper and Shannon Spencer were affirmed as conference lay leaders for the 2021-24 quadrennium. Their work will focus on building relationships and sharing Christ's love throughout the conference. Tracy Chambers will continue at Director of Lay Servant Ministries for another four-year term. A complete list of committees and leadership teams may be found at westohioumc.org.

Bishop Palmer commissioned two West Ohio laywomen, Katelin Hansen and Kristyl Shoaf, as deaconesses. The order of the deaconess is for laity called by God to a full-time vocation in ministries of love, justice and service.

Bishop Palmer commissioned one associate member, two provisional deacons and six provisional elders. He ordained four deacons and eight elders.

Continued next page.



2020 West Ohio Conference Annual Session Summary, continued:

Other business included:

The three recommendations before the annual conference passed with overwhelming support.

Recommendation #1 – 2021 Budget

- In 2020, we declare clergy benefits fully funded. For the first time, perhaps since the 1969 merger, we will not be apportioning for clergy benefits.
- The United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio, created earlier in 2020, replaces the Council on Development. The Foundation is already on its way to self-sufficiency.
- Because of the above and other efficiencies, West Ohio will apportion \$ 15,660,000, which includes General Church Connectional Support. This represents a 6% reduction.

Recommendation #2 – Pension and Health Benefits

- Clergy serving at least half time will be eligible for the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP).
- The Past Service Rate (PSR) for pre-1982 plan participants remains unchanged at \$ 611.

Recommendation #3 – Commission on Equitable Compensation

- Minimum salaries for clergy will increase at a rate of 2%. The committee is aware the cost of housing and clergy benefits is increasing but understands the need to make sure clergy and their families are cared for.

The conference recognized the missional contributions of the Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey and the Rev. Stan Ling. Nilson Kibbey will move into a new ministry setting at the end of the year. Ling will retire after serving the conference Council on Development and newly formed Foundation.

Membership stands at 140,309 and worship attendance at 84,629 with an additional 10,561 online worshippers and 2,440 professions of faith.

The 52nd session of the West Ohio Annual Conference is scheduled for June 6-10, 2021.

By Amy Graham and Kay Panovec



Church of the Messiah in Westerville was the host church for the 2020 Virtual Annual Conference.



Bishop Gregory V. Palmer

St. Mark's Cares Update

Julie Mislansky



GOOD NEIGHBOR WEEK SUMMARY



What an amazing week we had serving and loving our neighbors! Thank you to all the givers and receivers, all those who donated snacks and PPE supplies, all those who wrote cards and made phone calls and prayed, all those who did yard work and gifted people with song, all who delivered mums and pumpkins and baked goods, all who registered and gave blood, and all those who shared positive messages on Facebook. And thank you to those who did loving things that we don't even know about- I know you're out there! God worked in mysterious ways and made things happen this week that weren't even planned- we serve an awesome God!

Here is a quick summary:

33 registered to give blood, 27 were able to give, 81 lives will be saved with our donations!

14 "thank you" baskets were delivered to every Fairfield school, the Administration office, the Maintenance Department, and the Transportation Department

3 donation drives supplied all the "stuff" for those baskets!

41 (and counting) porch visits were made

2 people made baked goods for all the porch visits

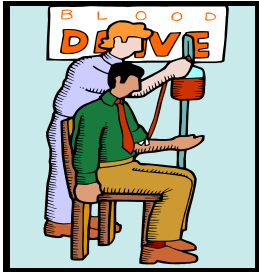
35 mums and pumpkins from OUR pumpkin patch were delivered to our members!

Many children and families visited the pumpkin patch

6,428 smiles were shared! (behind masks, of course)



UPCOMING MISSION AND OUTREACH



Sign up now for our next Blood Drive, November 23 from 3:00—7:00 p.m. here at St. Mark's UMC in Fellowship Hall. To schedule your appointment, click on the link below. Complete the Community Blood Center registration process if you have not done so, and choose your selected time. Thank you for being a Hero and helping to save a life.

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



Caitlin Menke

Here are two photos from our September 16 Blood Drive. Thank you to all who gave.



Edith Davis



Summer is over and the cold weather will be here before we know it. Time for our annual coat drive!! **We will be collecting new or gently used coats, jackets, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, and scarves the entire month of October.** Start collecting now and plan on bringing them to worship on our return to in-person on Oct. 25th! You can also drop off coats any weekday, during office hours, to the Fellowship Hall. There will be marked collection bins.

We will be serving a meal to our friends at Serve City on October 5th.

Because of Covid, we have been purchasing restaurant meals and delivering them, instead of making and serving the meals ourselves. As you can imagine, this is more costly. If you would like to contribute towards these meals, you can do so through your weekly giving. Make sure to mark "Serve City" on the designated giving line. Thank you!!!



Serving those in need in greater Cincinnati

We have a date scheduled to serve on the Broken Bus- October 24th!

The Bus just this month began using volunteers again, and they do have new guidelines. They are taking a maximum number of 4 people and they must be from the same household. Masks will be worn and volunteers will stay on the bus the whole time. **Please let Julie know if you are interested in serving on the bus and/or making the meal for that day.**



Board of Trustees

Bob Hamp, Chair

Parsonage Update

Following years of use as a rental property, the parsonage is once again our pastor’s family residence. It is a beautiful home. Many volunteers spent uncounted hours painting, repairing, installing new appliances, and so forth: All part of the process of returning the home to a comfortable living status. Additionally, Pastor Joe’s use of the home as parsonage has realized financial benefits to St. Mark’s. Tim Mislansky’s records show that “In 2020, using the home as parsonage created a savings of \$430 per month.” We are indeed fortunate our pastoral family uses it as their home.

Pastor Joe and Linda love living in the home. They have made few requests. However, work does continue. Many of the items listed here are part of the West Ohio Annual Conference *Parsonage Family Housing Standards*. Trustees, in consultation with the committees on Finance and Staff-Parish Relations, are working cooperatively to prioritize and address these maintenance/repair needs. This collaborative venture allows us to absorb costs over time while meeting the most urgent needs.

The parsonage has many needs. We are focused on those that present safety hazards. We believe our finances will support taking care of the following items before the end of this year.

- Environmental testing (for radon gas, other environmental hazards)
- Repair basement stair railing
- Replace storm doors and back garage door.
- Service call for garage door
- Install ceiling fans (bedroom & dining room)
- Improve basement lighting
- Repair and replace broken, heaved, and unsafe driveway, sidewalk, and breezeway steps (work nearing completion. See photos).
- Install condensate pump system to allow removal of floor pvc drain pipe in front of basement washer and dryer (work completed)



Driveway before replacement

We will address the following larger dollar amount needs as our plan permits.

- Add privacy fence
- Waterproof basement
- Add recreation room to basement (in order to address a WOC *Parsonage Family Housing Standards* requirement).
- Upgrade carbon monoxide and smoke detectors
- Install gas fireplace insert (existing wood-burning fireplace does not meet current fire safety standards).
- Remodel bathrooms



New driveway

CHURCH-WIDE FALL CLEANING DAYS

Join with other members of your church family in some fall cleaning, organizing, trmning, etc. Inside and outside opportunities abound!

Saturday, October 17 and 24, 8:00 a.m.—noon.
Come for one hour or the whole time.

St. Mark's Music Ministry

Hello everyone!

Can you believe we are heading into October already? Where did the summer go? Sometimes I feel days go by so quickly and then there are days that seem to just drag on. We are certainly living in a topsy-turvy time!

Since we have not been in church together since mid-March I wanted to let everyone know of some things past, present, and future that are going on in the Music Ministry of St. Mark's. Our online services continue every Sunday morning at 9:30. I enjoy leading the hymns and songs with all of you each week. I'm quite sure you are making a joyful noise right along with me. I also appreciate all of the people who have taken time and effort to prepare and share a special song with us during our services.

On August 10th the Music Ministry celebrated Music Sunday. What a wonderful service that was! It was very different this year, but God was so very present that morning. Even though we aren't together right now, music is still very much alive in the church. Through testimonies, special songs, scripture, and hymns, many exceptional musicians from St. Mark's shared their talents that morning, proving the rich history of the music ministry in this church is still as strong today as it was when we were children within this congregation.

The Thursday night Vesper services are a beautiful way to welcome the end of the week. What a wonderful chance to see people, share prayer, scripture, and time for devotion. I love singing hymns at these services; they give me such peace and comfort. Attendees aren't allowed to sing along yet, but we certainly do encourage humming!

Sue and I get so excited at the opportunity each week to record Hymnology for you. Hymnology is a "class" of three hymns that Sue will first tell you the history of how the hymn came to be and then she accompanies me singing the hymn. Every week the class is posted on Facebook, our hope is that you listen then share with other family members and friends. We have just completed Hymnology 201 class #6. There are 15 classes in Hymnology 101 (a total of 45 hymns), and 6 classes in Hymnology 201 (18 hymns). Sue and I can't thank you all enough for the support you have given this ministry.

The Chancel choir unfortunately is not able to begin meeting for rehearsals. This caused quite an empty void that I thought how can this be filled? I decided to use an idea Pastor Joe suggested to me and so I have started "Hymn Caroling". This is going to happen on Wednesday evenings between 6pm and 8pm. Those interested should meet in the church parking lot and we will go from there. We will visit 4 homes, driving to each in separate cars, socially distance singing in their yard, and wearing masks. Anyone is welcome to join us.

I look forward to us gathering once again on October 25! It will be different but we will be together and that will be so exciting. I continue to find ways to share music with all of you, and I keep praying for the day we will be back to "normal".

Psalm 105:2 Sing to him, sing praise to him, tell of all his wonderful acts!

"See" you soon!
Chris Beiser

HYMNOLOGY 201 QUIZ

1. Which of the Psalms inspired "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"?
2. Where did the melody for "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" originate from?
3. Which hymn from Lesson Three was originally written for children?
4. Who was Washington Gladden, author of "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee" named for, and why?
5. What anniversary prompted Charles Wesley to write "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing"?

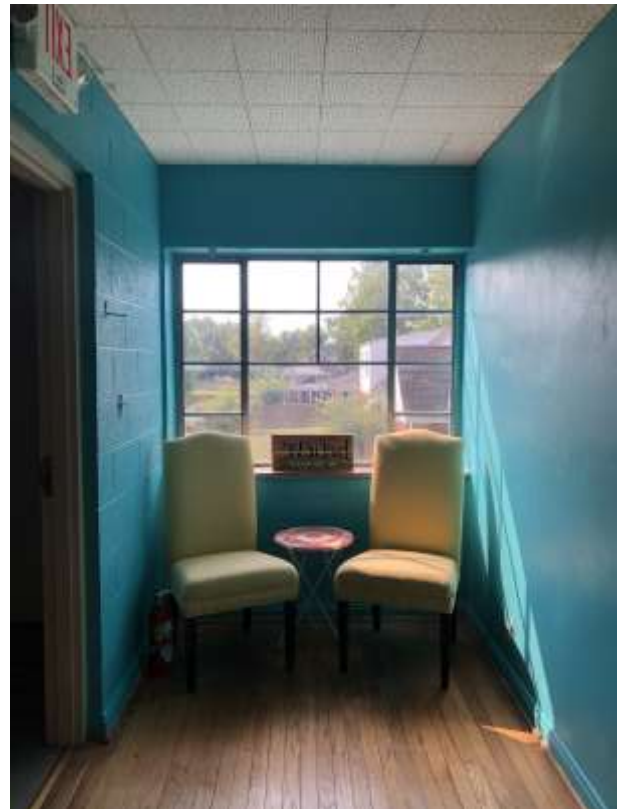
Please feel free to leave your comments in the comment section of class six.....

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

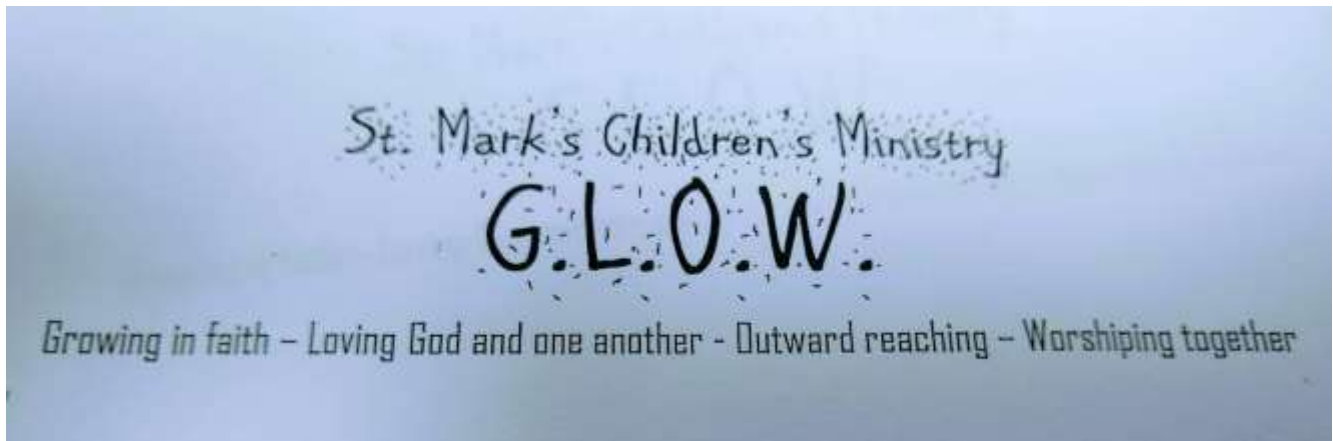
The youth room has a new look! Modern, bright colors, inviting- I am so ready to start having our youth meeting in this new space!!

Because of your generous designated giving to youth ministry over the past few years, there was a balance of almost \$5,000 in the youth account. We were given permission from Trustees to spend up to \$2,000 of this to paint the walls and update the furniture! Thanks to several church members and some of our youth, the painting is complete, and it is gorgeous. Two new couches, several new chairs, and a table have been purchased. The final touches of décor are in the works. The most exciting part, the art-work for the walls, will be done by the youth! Each teen is choosing a meaningful verse, quote or saying and will be given a large canvas to paint and present these words. These works of art and literature will decorate our walls!

We will be having online Zoom meetings on Sunday nights as we await the new church guidelines for meeting in person. I cannot wait to start meeting in our space together, face to face! Please pray for our youth as they navigate the new world of in-person, online, and hybrid school.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

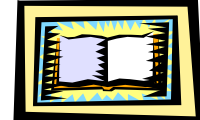


NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

October 25th is going to be an exciting day

THIRD GRADE BIBLE SUNDAY: We will celebrate our 3rd grade class during worship on Oct. 25th. This is an important milestone in the life of our Sunday school class, and I am very glad that we can be together to honor and support them on their faith journey.

If you have or know of a third grade student, please have them contact Peggy Smith p.smith@fairfieldstmarks.com.



TRUNK OR TREAT: October 25th 4:00 until 6:00p.m.

Fall Fest Trunk or Treat is still going to happen! We are looking for church members who want to be part of the fun.

Decorated vehicles will be parked in every other space in our parking lot, and guests will drive (parade) through.

We are also looking for members that have fun Halloween yard decorations (we will have electric available) that they could bring to add to the fun.

All candy will be pre bagged and handed out as cars exit the parking lot.

We will be accepting candy donations until Oct. 18th.

St. Mark's Opportunities (Fellowship, Participation, Study, Serve)



THANKS RUTH CIRCLE

NAMI Butler County will sponsor
A virtual WALK this year on
October 10th. Each year, St.

Mark's Ruth Circle has generously sponsored the WALK at the kilometer level of support. This is a once-a-year fundraiser for NAMI and makes it possible to provide free courses on mental health For families in our community. Other courses are presented by peers to individuals struggling with and recovered from mental illness. During the present COVID 19 crisis, there are even more people coping with anxiety and depression.

The loyalty of the ladies from the Ruth Circle year after year has made a big impact in our community and is greatly appreciated. For questions concerning this year's WALK, please contact Suzan Stracke.



Altar Flowers may still be ordered for our online services.

Please call the church office if you would like to have flowers some Sunday on the Altar. Orders must be received by Wednesday.

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



The annual NAMI of Butler County walk will be virtual this year!

St. Mark's Ruth Circle women's group has been a proud sponsor of this walk since 2013! They are encouraging people to register online and do a "5K, Your Day, Your Way." Much like the Big Brothers Big Sisters virtual 5K, you do the walk on your own time, in your neighborhood or wherever you like to walk, on any day by October 10th. Grab a friend and do it together! NAMI does amazing and important work for persons and their families who live with mental illness. Their programs are even more urgent at this time when our mental health needs are at their greatest. Please consider registering and being a part of this fundraiser or sponsoring one of the walkers or teams. **You can find more information or register at namiwalks.org**



I just wanted to take a moment to thank our Director of Music for all he has provided during this pandemic season...From the beautiful songs he sang during the Lenten/Easter season, to his contribution to VBS, both in music and movement...to the lovely "God honoring" service he wove together for Music Sunday, including his testimony and beautiful song... Which brings us to "fall caroling" and Vespers services... Thank you Chris Beiser for giving to the Lord...We are blessed by that little boy with the bow tie...

Sue Combs

OCTOBER PICK ME UP MOMENTS

Thanks to Carol Pittman

- Oct. 1: You are valuable simply because you were created by the hand of God.
- Oct. 2: God doesn't ask you to: understand, comprehend or figure it out...He just asks us to: Pray, seek and trust. Isaiah 55:8
- Oct. 3: Each day comes bearing its own gifts. Untie the ribbon. Ruth Ann Schabacker
- Oct. 4: The Lord is greater than the giants you face. 1 John 4:14
- Oct. 5: Smiles are always in fashion.
- Oct. 6: There is no obstacle too great, no challenge too difficult if we have faith.
Gordon B. Hinckley
- Oct. 7: We get nearer to the Lord through music than perhaps through any other thing except prayer. J. Rueben Clark
- Oct. 8: You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have. Maya Angelou
- Oct. 9: The body heals with play; the mind heals with laughter; and the spirit with joy. Unknown
- Oct. 10: Do your little bit of good where you are; it is those little bits of good put all together that overwhelm the world. Desmond Tutu
- Oct. 11: Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7
- Oct. 12: Our faith in Jesus Christ enables us to meet any challenge. Carole M. Stephens
- Oct. 13: To minister means to love and care for others. It means to attend to their physical and spiritual needs. Put simply, it means to do what the Savior would do if He were here. David L. Beck
- Oct. 14: Life with God is not immunity from difficulties, but peace in difficulties. C.S. Lewis
- Oct. 15: Hope remains even in the most difficult of times. Vera Lynn
- Oct. 16: When you pray, God listens. When you listen, God talks. When you believe, God works. Anon
- Oct. 17: The smallest act of service is worth more than the grandest intention. Anon
- Oct. 18: Through prayer you will truly experience God's peace that surpasses all understanding. Philippians 4:7
- Oct. 19: Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18
- Oct. 20: I can't fix the world's problems, but I will do what I can to make a difference where I can. Anon
- Oct. 21: God gave you a fingerprint that no one else has, so you can leave an imprint that no one else can. Anon
- Oct. 22: Kindness costs nothing, yet it is a most precious gift. Katrina Mayer
- Oct. 23: When you cannot sleep at night, have you ever thought maybe it's God saying "We need to talk and you now have time"? Anon
- Oct. 24: Pray daily. God is easier to talk to than most people. Anon
- Oct. 25: When God holds your hand, He never lets go. Isaiah 41:13
- Oct. 26: Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves. J. M. Barre
- Oct. 27: Your hardest times often lead to the greatest moments of your life. Keep going. tough situations build strong people in the end. Roy T. Bennett
- Oct. 28: God doesn't care if you pray fancy words, He just wants you to talk to Him. Anon
- Oct. 29: I am a child of God. 1 John 3:1
- Oct. 30: The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:6
- Oct. 31: Why worry? If you've done the very best you can, then worrying won't make it better. Walt Disney

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Cheryl Klug
- 1 - Shannon Knau
- 1 - Sue Miller
- 2 - Stanley Amoah
- 3 - Jack Nguyen
- 3 - Richard Shaw
- 4 - Rich Turner
- 5 - Gale Goodman
- 5 - Rich Mischell
- 7 - Carolyn Roark
- 9 - Sheila Boggs
- 9 - Roy Brown
- 9 - Don Menke
- 10 - Nancy Miracle
- 11 - Bob Netherland
- 15 - Sue Mullen
- 16 - Heather Chambers
- 16 - Hugh Guynes
- 17 - Don Ault
- 17 - Larry Creach
- 20 - Anne Hennen
- 21 - Joe Mislansky
- 22 - Jenni Hensler
- 23 - Danny Thomas
- 25 - Eleanor McCollum
- 25 - Ben McDaniel (5 yrs.)
- 27 - Marty Kubik
- 29 - Alan Batt
- 30 - Maxine Craig
- 30 - John Smith



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 - Wade & Nancy Lewis
- 11 - Gil & Penny Dole
- 14 - Bob & Shannon Knau
- 17 - Steve & Peggy Woods
- 19 - Rick & Terrill Broshear
- 23 - Brian & Marla George
- 30 - Rich & Cindy Mischell



Dear St. Mark's Family,

Words cannot express how much we appreciate your cards, calls, and visits during the last few months. Since June, we have been strengthened, supported, and felt your love and prayers through Kayla's move, my accident and surgery, my mother's illness, and the passing of Devin's brother. Every time we received a card, we could feel the love and support from all of you. Even though for the most part we have not seen one another for several months, I feel we are closer than if we would have seen each other on a weekly basis. We are so looking forward to the day when we can all see each other in the Sanctuary and worship together. Please know that we love and miss you all!

With the Spirit of St. Mark's, Thank you!
Devin and Gale Goodman

St. Mark's UMC
4601 Fairfield Ave.
(513) 844-1818
Fax: (513) 844-2828
fairfieldstmarks.com

Worship Service:
Sundays 9:30 am
Live Streamed

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
Nursery Director, Lauren Dichtl