



First Sunday of Advent

## “Hope for Tomorrow”



**November 29, 2020, 9:30 am**

# ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE

*Quiet your minds and hearts, focusing on God's presence with anticipation.*

WELCOME

Pastor Joe Payne

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Linda Payne

"I Believe"

Chris Beiser, Sue Combs, and congregation

I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,  
Even when, even when it's not shining.

**I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,  
Even when, even when it's not shining.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath: First Candle — Marshall Family

**I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,  
Even when, even when it's not shining.**

HYMN

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" UMH 196

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## WE PROCLAIM

CHILDREN'S TIME TO SHINE

Peggy Smith

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

THE WITNESS OF MUSIC

Chris Beiser / Sue Combs

"Shine On Us"

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-15

SERMON

Pastor Joe

*"I Believe in the Sun: Hope for Tomorrow"*

## WE RESPOND

LITANY OF BELIEF

In times when humanity disappoints,  
perhaps when even our own thoughts and behaviors disappoint,  
it is an important act to call out, name and claim,

the consequences of our wrongs.  
And in times of distress it is a prophetic act to call out,  
name and claim, our belief in the hope for tomorrow.

I believe that we have looked the other way too many times  
AND

**I believe that we are capable of facing reality and working  
for change.**

I believe that our fear of difference has robbed us of compassion  
AND

**I believe that we can look deeper and hold onto the things  
that we have in common.**

I believe that our fear of doubt makes us stop asking tough  
questions  
AND

**I believe that asking tough questions in the face of  
injustice is faithful.**

We believe, even when we are discouraged.  
**We believe, that when we are discouraged,  
raising our voices for justice will offer us hope!**

PRAYERS IN THE STILLNESS

THE PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER  
*(using "sins" and "...sin against us."*

OFFERING MOMENTS

Doxology—to the tune of "Give Thanks"

**Believe, with a hopeful heart!**  
**Believe, and shine your light!**  
**Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"**  
**let the poor say, "I am rich**  
**because of what our God has done for us."**  
**Believe!**

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## **WE GO FORTH**

CAROL OF RESISTANCE "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

### **BENEDICTION**

...And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news  
that the sun still shines even on cloudy days,  
fill the night left by sadness with messages of hope.  
Go into your lives humming the tunes that keep that hope alive  
in you  
and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.  
Raise your voices and repeat after me...  
"Do not be afraid!"  
**"Do not be afraid!"**  
**Amen!**

### **POSTLUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ADVENT CELEBRATION - Tonight at 6:30 pm.**

Candles around the Creche.

We will gather around St. Mark's beautiful Creche  
on the first night of Advent.

Sharing some traditional carols, a short reading  
and prayer.

There will be daily devotional booklets for adults,  
Advent calendars for children, and Advent wreath  
kits for families.

Individually bagged cookies for everyone!

Dress warm.

**SMALL GROUP STUDY - Join Pastor Joe in this 6 session study: FAITHFUL and INCLUSICE.**

The Bible, Sexuality and the United Methodist Church.

**Six Sessions 6:30 - 7:30 pm Thursdays**

**January 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11**

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 the office, 513-844-1818.

**CRAFT SALE:** The Monday craft ladies still have some items available to purchase. They are located, on tables, in the Education Wing. Feel free to come any morning, Monday through Thursday, to look and shop.  
**Proceeds go to the Parking Lot.**

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Flowers may be in memory, honor of someone or just because. Price is \$14.50 for each vase.

**Please call the church office for your request by Wednesday.** You may take your flowers home after the service, or let the office know if you need to come another time.

**UPPER ROOMS:** Upper Rooms for November/December are available, in a box, outside the kitchen door.

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## **Sunday Requests and Updates:**

Family of Clara Roederer, Gale Goodman's aunt, who passed away this week from Covid.

Brother, of Mark Hensler, dealing with Gout and side effects of Chemo drugs.

Shut-ins and those in our nursing homes.

Christian Jngle and family. He is home from the hospital but in much pain after Brain surgery. (Shirley Grant)

Pray for all those with Covid and all those families grieving a loved one lost to Covid.

Daughter, Missy & her husband, Dave and granddaughter, Kailyn. They all have Covid and off work and school for 14 days.

Continue prayers for Chris Beiser and Sue Combs.

## **New from last Sunday:**

Prayer for Patty Froelke who has Covid.

Terrill Broshear's brother, Neal Menninger, has Stage 4 Colon Cancer.

Tara McDonald for recuperation after having foot surgery.

## Continuing Prayers

*(Help us keep this list current. Email or call the church office .)  
(b.smoot@fairfieldstmarks.com / 844-1818) with any updates.)*

All service Men & Women	Prayer & Bible Study Groups	Byron Jones
Our Country	Jean Stivers	Merianne Cardas
First Responders	Mitch Thomas	Dick Brewer
United Methodist Church	Lori Palmieri (Pat Coyle's daughter)	Mike Kinnard in Bethesda North Therapy unit. George Peters

## St. Mark's Homebound / Shut-ins

Phyllis Tunning - Triplecreek	Sandy Ronningen -Chesterwood
Virginia Shaw	Eleanor McCollum
Nancy & Bob Miracle	Paul Schutte - Doverwood
Dale Shreve - Birchwood, 201	Sue Webster
Bob Netherland in Hospice Care	Bob Grammel - Jamestown for Rehab.

**Joys / Concerns** *(listed in the order received, and kept for four weeks unless requested to remain on our "Continuing Prayers" list.)*

Kathy's sister, Norine 11/1	Debbie Pottenger 11/1
Son, Jeff Pitman 11/1	Don Bond 11/8
Mary Lou Nguyen 11/1	Friend, Jon 11/8
Larry Morris 11/1	Friend, Rena 11/8
Aunt Iva 11/1	Danny Thomas 11/8
Friend, Joy Sharp 11/1	Josh Goodman 11/8
Pastor Wes Souders 11/1	Megan Riley 11/8
Steve Hill 11/1	Chris Murray 11/15
Sarah Luken 11/1	Carol Kinross 11/15
Friend, Kate Jones 11/1	Daughter, Chrissy 11/15
Jon Shirvin 11/1	Jim Ruhl 11/15
Greg Pullem 11/1	Friend, Terri Fischer 11/15
David Waddell 11/1	Sister-in-law, Kelly 11/15
	Judy Miller 11/15

# **St. Mark's United Methodist Church**

Our Mission is to make Disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.

## **STAFF**

Pastor	Rev. Joseph M. Payne
Administrative Assistant	Brenda Smoot
Director of Music	Chris Beiser
Organist	Sue Combs
Director of Children & Family Ministries	Peggy Smith
Director of Youth Ministries	Julie Mislansky
Pastor Emeritus	Bob Klingel

## **OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Liturgist	Linda Payne
Sound	Rick Kiefer
Camera	Mark Hensler
Screen	Jennie Marshall

## **ALTAR FLOWERS ...**

... are in honor of the birthdays of Sharon Hamp,  
Lynne Schmacker, & Sue Hadley by Lynne.

... are in memory of Jami Hamblin from parents,  
Ron & Becky Hamblin.

### **St. Mark's United Methodist Church**

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