



Fourth Sunday of Advent

“I Believe in the Light: Illuminating Peace”



ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 20, 2020, 9:30 am

ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Sue Combs

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

WELCOME

Pastor Joe Payne

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Linda Payne

I believe in the light, I believe in the light
That has come, that has come, and is coming.

Chris Beiser

**I believe in the light, I believe in the light
That has come, that has come, and is coming.**

THE ADVENT WREATH

Dick & Edith Davis

We see the star rising

We see the star rising

We hear the glad tidings

We hear the glad tidings

We know we are not alone

We know we are not alone

Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch of
your gift of peace on earth. Even in the midst of fear, of
challenge, of struggle—even when we are not sure of your
presence, ignite the flame of joy within us,

**... that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out**

**I believe in the light, I believe in the light
That has come, that has come, and is coming.**

OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Vs. 1,2,6,7
UMH 211

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

WE PROCLAIM

CHILDREN'S TIME TO SHINE

Peggy Smith

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
2. Don't Let satan blow it out! I'm gonna let it shine.
3. Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm gonna let it shine.
4. Let it shine all over the world. I'm gonna let it shine.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

THE WITNESS OF MUSIC

"When Angels Sing"

Chris Beiser

GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-18

SERMON

Pastor Joe

"I believe in the Light: Illuminating Peace"

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 peace for the world..

Hear these statements of belief:

I believe that humans seem to have a penchant for conflict AND

I believe that we are capable of learning non-violent ways to negotiate difference.

I believe that we have perpetrated deep suffering upon each other AND

I believe that we can face up to the facts of privilege and work for equity.

I believe that our fear has told us that we must "win" in order to survive AND

I believe that "winning" at the cost of others can be called out and changed.

We believe, even when we are discouraged.

We believe, that when we are discouraged, raising our voices, for justice will offer us peace!

PRAYERS IN THE STILLNESS

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

WE GO FORTH

CAROL OF RESISTANCE "Go Tell it On The Mountain" UMC 251

OFFERING MOMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

DOXOLOGY (Closing Song)

Believe, with a joyful 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TONIGHT FROM 6 - 8 pm, the Sanctuary doors will be open for anyone who would like to see the beautiful decorated Sanctuary in person. Christmas music will be playing softly and the lights will be on. Come to pray for you or a loved one, or to contemplate the wonder and joy of the supreme Gift of Christmas. The Sanctuary will also be available Mon.- Thurs. from 9 to noon. Come to the kitchen door for entrance.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Worship will be **Live stream only**. Tune in at **7 pm or watch the recording at a time more convenient for your household**. Have a candle ready to light for the singing of Silent Night.

MUSIC SUNDAY: Next Sunday, Dec. 27th, our worship will be devoted to our Music Ministry.

ONLINE SMALL GROUP STUDY -

Join Pastor Joe in this 6 session study:

FAITHFUL and INCLUSIVE.

The Bible, Sexuality and the United Methodist Church.

Six Sessions 6:30 - 7:30 pm Thursdays

ON ZOOM—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.

UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS: The Jan./Feb. issues are available, in a box, outside the kitchen door. Please pick up a copy for your devotional reading.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sunday Requests and Updates:

David Ritenbaugh, son of Ruth, has Covid 19 with fever, cough and headache.

Pat Pitman asking prayers for her nephew, Dr. Gerard Macy, who is having health issues.

Prayers for grandson, Tammy Halloran, with a mild case of Covid. (Aydlett's)

Co-worker of Paul Huelsman having severe Kidney issues.

Niece & nephew of Flo Goebel Moore. Niece in hospital very sick with Covid and nephew not allowed to see her.

They are cousins to Pam Guynes.

Don Bond's wife, Bev, has Dementia and in a nursing home. (Friend of Bud Aydlett)

Phyllis Tunning & all coping with virus. (Lois Hill)

Dale Shreve is still struggling with Covid and other issues.

Kathy Balchunas's Mom has been referred to a rehab center for help in progression of healing.

Aunt Iva and Paul Schutte. (Ruth Stanifer)

Danny Thomas is having Shoulder surgery on Wed.

Jeff Gering is having foot issues.

Athena Edmundson - hospital with rare aggressive cancer.

Knau's nephew has passed away. Sympathy to the family.

Mike Kinnard passed away on Mon., Dec. 14th. Service will be at St. Mark's on Tues., Dec. 22nd at 11 am.

Sympathy to his daughter, Jennifer & family.

Praise:

Cindy Miller is thankful for vaccine.

Praise God for 63 beautiful years together. We love each other. Thanks to God and St. Mark's. (Bud Aydlett)

Happy Anniversary Shirley and Bud.

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 Merianne Cardas
Our Country	Jean Stivers	Dick Brewer
First Responders	Lori Palmieri (Pat	Mitch Thomas
United Methodist Church	Coyle's daughter)	All Shut-ins and Homebound

St. Mark's Homebound / Shut-ins

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

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

Bob Sudbrink 11/29	Belinda Peters & Family 12/6
Uncle Charles Kemp 11/29	Rose Townsend 12/6
Kenny Hobson 11/29	Sue Beckett 12/6
Sister-in-law, Kelly & her mom, Wanda 11/29	Lainey & Levi 12/6
Mary Lou Nguyen 11/29	Beth Halterman 12/6
Bob Grammel's brother & nephew 11/29	Roger's Roark's brother 12/6
Doug 11/29	Debbie Pottenger 12/6

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

POINSETTIAS

In honor of our grandchildren - Sophia, Tommy and Millie from Rick & Jennie Marshall.

In memory of our parents, Karen Mason & Gary Marshall from Rick & Jennie Marshall.

In memory of husband, French Smoot from Brenda.

In honor of our family from Dick & Edith Davis.

In honor of daughter, Missy, from Alethea LaMar

In honor of Nicole, Joey & Jennifer from Missy LaMar.

In memory of Lou Fassnacht from Holly & Pat.

In memory of Naomi Rowland from Holly & Pat.

In memory of our parents, Bill & Gennie Summers and Bill Dichtl from Bill & Julie Dichtl.

In memory of John McWilliam from Ann.

In memory of Bob Janosik from Carolyn & family.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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