



# SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S

## DECEMBER 2020

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



My dear St. Mark's family,

I greet you in the name of Christ, who is our Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Despite the covid-19 virus, you have inspired me with your tenacity and your desire to remain together as a congregation, even while being apart for much of the year. I am proud of you! My prayers are with those who have been or are ill with the virus or any other illness. My prayers are also with those who have lost loved ones, especially this year. Please know that I and your congregation are with you.

I want to share your opportunities for worship during this month of December. We will continue to have our doors open on Sunday mornings for those who feel the need to worship in person. We welcome you. At the same time, because of the steep rise in the number of virus cases and hospitalizations, I encourage you to worship with your church family from the safety of your home.

If you worship from home on December 6, Communion Sunday, have your bread and juice ready at your side during worship to receive at my direction.

On Sunday, December 20, the sanctuary will be decorated with lovely red poinsettias. For those who wish to see the beautifully decorated sanctuary in person, the doors will be open on Sunday, December 20, from 6 – 8 pm. 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 Monday – Thursday from 9 – noon. Come to the kitchen door for entrance.

On Christmas Eve, worship will be offered live stream only at 7:00 pm. This was a difficult decision, but it was made out of love and concern for you and your extended families who may be visiting from other communities and states. Tune in at 7:00 PM, or watch the recording at a time more convenient for your household. Sing along with Chris and Sue, and have a candle ready to light for the singing of Silent Night.

Advent and Christmas Blessings,

Joe



What about our traditional Christmas Card Exchange?

**This year, you are invited send your cards through the mail.**

**Or....produce a**

## **VIDEO /PHOTO CHRISTMAS CARD**

Gather yourself and your loved ones, including your beloved pets if you wish, and use your phone or camcorder to record a 10—30 second video, with your good wishes shared for the holidays. Be creative.

If you prefer, you may submit a photo of your family with a Christmas message on a sign. Only one video/photo card per household, please.

These video and photo cards will be sent by email weekly to the congregation and shared during worship leading to Christmas.

Send all submissions to [b.smoot@fairfieldstmarks.com](mailto:b.smoot@fairfieldstmarks.com)

Please consider sending a “real” card to our homebound church family, including these persons listed below.

Phyllis Tunning - Triplecreek

Virginia Shaw

Nancy & Bob Miracle

Dale Shreve - Birchwood, 201

Bob Netherland

Sandy Ronningen - Chesterwood

Eleanor McCollum

Paul Schutte - Birchwood

Sue Webster

Bob Grammel

Jean Bennett

Flo Moore

Mary Kay Bowling

Laura Spahn

Are we missing somebody that should be on this list? Please let us know (513.844.1818) .

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

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## Recent

Husband Dale & others at Birchwood have tested positive for Covid. (Elaine Shreve)  
Prayer for Doug in the loss of his Mother on Thanksgiving Day. (Patty Coyle)  
Mary Lou Nguyen, sister-in-law of Steve Nguyen, whose Mother Sally passed away  
Bob Grammel who is now home. Brother and Nephew have Covid-19—Tari Randall  
Paul Schutte is now at Birchwood.  
Bob Sudbrink is having complications with Chemo while he awaits marrow transplant  
for Blood cancer. (Friend of the Marshalls & Mullens)  
Uncle Charles Kemp is ill and awaiting his Covid test results. (Jennie Marshall)  
Kenny Hobson inhospital with Covid. (From a friend)  
Prayers for Dr. Macy. (Pat Pitman)  
Prayers for friends who haven't had it easy lately. (Willa Ramsey)  
Sister-in-law, Kelly, who is having surgery Mon. and Mom Wanda in assisted living with  
health issues. (Jennie Marshall.)  
Ruth Stanifer's Aunt Iva.  
Aiken's family members in Hillard are doing fine now.  
New grandson, J. Thomas Hannah born Nov. 17. (Jennie & Rick Marshall)  
George Peters passed away on Tues. Dec. 1st. Funeral service (seating maximum of  
25) is 11 am Monday at Rose Hill Funeral Home. Visitation 10—11. Masks and Social  
Distancing requested.

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

Don Bond 11/8	Christian Jngle 11/22
Friend, Jon 11/8	Daughter Missy, husband, Dave granddaughter, Kailyn 11/22
Friend, Rena 11/8	Family of Clara Roederer 11/22
Danny Thomas 11/8	All Shut-ins & those in Nursing homes 11/22
Josh Goodman 11/8	All those with Covid 11/22
Megan Riley 11/8	All families grieving a loved one lost to Covid 11/22
Chris Murray 11/15	Patty Froelke 11/22
Carol Kinross 11/15	Neal Menninger 11/22
Daughter, Chrissy 11/15	Tara McDonald 11/22
Jim Ruhl 11/15	
Friend, Terri Fischer 11/15	
Judy Miller 11/15	
Mark Hensler's brother 11/22	

**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	Mitch Thomas	Mike Kinnard in
Our Country	Lori Palmieri (Pat Coyle's	Bethesda North
First Responders	daughter)	Therapy unit.
United Methodist Church	Byron Jones	Bob Netherland, receiving hos- pice care at home.
Prayer & Bible Study Groups	Merianne Cardas	
Jean Stivers	Dick Brewer	



# MUSIC MINISTRY

Chris Beiser - Director of Music

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...did you get a chance to look at the pictures Julie Mislansky posted of our beautiful sanctuary and our Nativity scene outside? WOW! How quickly time flies and we find ourselves in this blessed time of Advent once again. It's been said once, and will be said many more times, "this year things are going to be different". We are so used to hearing that but what it does for me is make me say "ok if it has to be different, how can it still be special?" Well, that is what I am setting out to do for this Advent season.

First, on **December the 27<sup>th</sup>**, I am going to be putting together a **Music Sunday** for the 9:30 service. I need everyone's help! I want this service to be a countdown of the top 10 Christmas songs (sacred!!) that the St. Mark's congregation loves to hear and sing along. I would like to have all the votes in to be counted (and every vote will be counted!) by Sunday December 13. That way I have a couple of weeks to plan out this fun and joyous musical service. Please keep your nominations of songs to no more than 5, thanks! You can cast your votes by texting me 513-907-7669, or by email [CGBchoreo@aol.com](mailto:CGBchoreo@aol.com). I will soon be having an announcement as well on our Facebook page about this service so that you can also nominate songs there.

Pastor Joe has picked a beautiful Advent series for this year! What a wonderful way to celebrate this season by taking the darkness of these times and bringing in the light with hope, peace, joy, and love. This will be done each week through music, scripture, sermons, and of course light. Please join us each week online or if you feel comfortable in person. The songs are beautiful, the message timely, the children's moments delightful. Everything prepares you for a wonderful worship experience and hopefully will set the perfect tone for this Christmas season.

I am asking for help this Christmas! If you have a song that you would like to sing or play, please submit by video, or talk with me about coming to church to present the song on a Sunday morning. We want to make everything comfortable and safe for you to be a part of the service. Christmas time is always filled with wonderful music presented by our many talented musicians, and I don't want this year to be any different. If you don't come to me, I'll be coming to you!

Jesus is the LIGHT of our Christmas, the JOY of our hearts, and the HOPE of our world.

Chris Beiser



Sue and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, texts, calls, and deliveries during our time quarantining with Covid. Even in the down times, we certainly both felt lifted up by our loving St. Mark's family. So good to be back! Thank you to Jim Fenske and Linda Payne for stepping in and serving as worship leaders, that was so much appreciated by Sue and I, and also the congregation.





## St. Mark's Financial Update

Tim Mislansky, Finance Committee Chairperson

### Greetings St. Mark's Family,

When the request comes out for the newsletter article, sometimes it seems like I just wrote one. How can it be time for another? Since my last update there is not much that has changed. But there are two big pieces of news I want to share.

Within the next two weeks, St. Mark's will issue checks to the district and conference for apportionments. This will pay our apportionments at 100% for the year! And this will be the fourth year in a row we have accomplished this! We should be proud that we are able to meet our needs and support the connectional aspect of the United Methodist Church.

And in more good news, we have essentially hit our goal for the parking lot improvement project. I say essentially because we are about \$700 short of the \$40,000 goal, but the final bill for the parking lot came in about \$6,000 less than we expected when we started the campaign. If you have been to or by the church recently, hopefully you have noticed the lot repair, re-paving and re-stripping is complete. Next step is to get an updated lighting quote and complete the work. We are hopeful it can be accomplished before the end of the year.

Thank you to everyone who made a gift, big and small, to the parking lot fund since 2018. The \$40,000 was raised through gifts from 71 different families, the use of some memorial money and funds from salad luncheons, book sales and the craft show – a total church effort!

And as we close the year out, I want to thank Ruth Ritenbaugh and Cheryl Creach for faithfully coming in to count the money each week. This is generally a thankless job, but you should know about their work. I also want to thank the entire finance committee for all their time and efforts this year and especially to Jennifer Rinker whose term is up on committee.

So, all in all, our finances are in good shape and we have got a lot to be thankful for. We have been able to pay our bills, pay our apportionments and complete a major renovation/repair project. If you have questions 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](mailto:tmislansky@fuse.net) or call me at 513-759-0581.

Sincerely,  
Tim Mislansky



# ST. MARK'S MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

## Julie Mislansky



Another amazing food drive for our local pantry, Fairfield Food Pantry, is in the books! Your generous donations, totaled 275 pounds of food and 285 pounds of personal care items!! The pantry was so appreciative of our efforts, especially the personal care items! People rarely donate these types of items, so they are always low in stock or completely out. We plan to make our next drive all personal care Items. Stay tuned for that!



A large and delicious meal of hearty casseroles and a variety of desserts was given of Serve City on November 18th. Thanks to the following for your donations: Cindy Miller, Sue McDaniel, Jenni Hensler, Gay Kubik, Julie Mislansky, Cindy Booker, Chelsey Cavendar, Charlotte Tierney, Hannah Hensler, Cheryl Klug, Debbie Bryant, Lynne Schumacker and Tim Dutey.

Our next scheduled meal will be December 31st. New Year's Eve!  
We are planning a menu of party foods and finger foods.

Watch for the sign-ups on our church Facebook page in mid-December.

**JUST A REMINDER**, we continue to collect donations for several missions, all throughout the year, regardless of whether or not we are having a dedicated drive or collection. There are collection bins for the following in the Fellowship Hall and in the Narthex:

- **Matthew 25:** empty pill bottles (thank you, Cheryl Kemen, for your faithful delivery of these!)
- **Fairfield Food Pantry:** any non-perishable food items and personal care products (thank you, Debbie Bryant, for your faithful delivery!)
- **Broken Bus:** they are always in need of new or gently used men's jeans, sweatshirts, tennis shoes or all-weather boots, and new boxer-brief style men's underwear (sizes large or x-large)

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

## CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

I am excited to announce our 2020 Christmas mission project! **We will be supporting One Way Farm** in Fairfield. As many of you are aware, this children's home is recently re-opened. They care for abused, abandoned, and troubled youth from all over Ohio. Their home is completely full with children and teens and they are in the process of opening a third dorm. St. Mark's will be helping to make this a great Christmas for all who live and work there!@

On their Christmas wish list is anything you might think a child, ages 8-18, might want or need. They will take our donations and combine with others to make sure each child has a Merry Christmas. This us your chance to be creative - buy whatever items you like to have access to - there is no price minimum or maximum - all donations will be important and needed. All items should be new.

Here are some ideas:

New clothing, shoes, coats, etc. - any sizes that would fit a child age 8 through 18

Toys

Games

Art supplies and crafts

Books

Journals and scrapbooking supplies

Jewelry, hair accessories

Sports equipment - basketballs, footballs, gloves, jump rope, Nerf items, etc.



**All donations need to be at church by Thursday, December 17th.** There will be a bin in the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. We are so grateful for your support!



Our November Blood drive was a huge success! 33 persons were registered and 31 were able to give!

Thank you to each and everyone! Our Blood drives have been so successful; we will definitely be continuing them. Watch for one in late winter/early spring.

Pictured is the team of healthcare heroes who kept the evening running smoothly!





# YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

**JULIE MISLANSKY, YOUTH DIRECTOR**



Thanks to the Youth who helped during our serve days! On November 3rd, Ethan, Kayden, Jenn, Gunnar, and Mary helped sort and organize at the Broken Bus “bus stop”. Last week, Gunnar, Ethan, and Kayden raked leaves at a member’s house. Even though we cannot yet meet in person as a large group, I am thankful that we can do these activities in small groups!

We continue to find new ways to connect through our Zoom meetings on Sunday nights through devotions, games, and conversation. This past Sunday we celebrated all things Thanksgiving including making a word cloud showing things we are most grateful for.

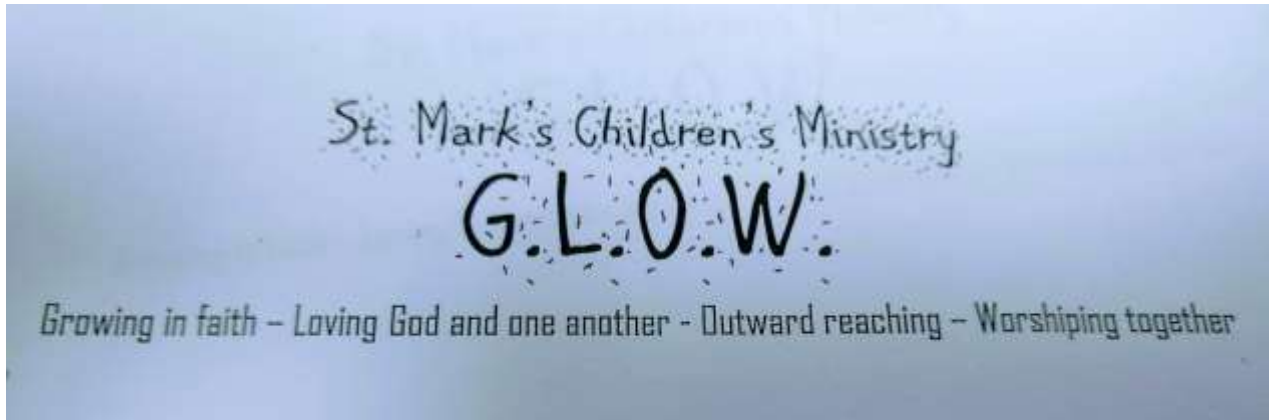
I am so grateful for these teens and look forward to share the Advent season with them!





# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

PEGGY SMITH, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES



Hello Friends,

Believe or not Advent is here! It may not look or feel like the seasons of Advent in past years, but God is with us and we can look forward to Christmas Day and celebrating the birth of our Savior.

**If you have not picked up your Advent kits, please contact me.**

**Family kits include:**

**Advent devotion books - Advent calendar for each child - A fun Advent wreath craft with weekly liturgy - A Christmas ornament.**

We have paused in person Sunday school for a while, but hope to begin meeting in person on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> during worship. I have sent guidelines out to families, and will include that in my mailings again next week.

I will also continue to send out the curriculum to any families that are not comfortable coming back into the building on Sunday mornings. Don't forget to join the [St. Mark's UMC Children and Family Ministry Facebook group](#), to watch the fun videos that go with the weekly lessons.

In addition to Sunday morning, we will begin a **Zoom G.L.O.W.** for all ages on Sunday afternoons. This will begin on **Dec. 6, at 2:00 pm**. You will receive a zoom invite via email. You only need to click on that link and it will hook you into the meeting. This will be a fun 20-30 minutes of connect time.

**Zoom Movie Night – December 18 @ 7:00pm.** Let's grab a snack and gather around our devices to watch Charlie Brown and his friends discover the true meaning of Christmas. Zooming the movie together allows us to see one another as we watch "together".

Upcoming Dates

Advent Candles around the Crèche – Nov. 29 @ 6:30

Zoom G.L.O.W. December 6 @ 2:00

Back to in person SS December 13

Zoom Movie Night December 18 @ 7:00pm



**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

Chairperson Julie Dichtl  
 Lay Leader Mark Hensler  
 Lay Mem. Annual Conference Sue Luken  
 Family Ministry Sue Luken  
 Nurture & Care Pam Guynes  
 St. Mark's Cares Julie Mislansky  
 SPRC Chair Jennifer Rinker  
 Finance Chair Gale Goodman  
 Treasurer Tim Mislansky  
 Trustee Chair (Elected by Trustees)  
 Staff Representatives Peggy Smith  
    Julie Mislansky  
    Chris Beiser  
    Pastor Joe

Members at Large:  
 2021 Steve Nguyen  
 2022 Pat Fassnacht  
 2023 Charlotte Tierney

**COMMITTEES**

**Nominations & Leadership Development**

2021 Mary Pierson Jim Jones  
 2022 Brenda Smoot Gay Kubik  
 2023 Cheryl Kemen Debbie Bryant

**Staff / Parish Relations**

2021 Kristy Theiss Jenni Hensler  
 2022 Rick Kiefer Pat Belarski  
 2023 Jennifer Rinker, Chair  
    Suzan Stracke, Tim Tierney

**Finance**

2021 Gale Goodman, Chair Cheryl Creach  
 2022 Pam Finfrock Tim Mislansky, Treas  
 2023 Bob Pittman Don Menke  
    Ruth Ritenbaugh, Financial Sec.

**Trustees**

2021 Jeff Gering Marilyn Stewart  
 2022 Bob Mendenhall Penny Dole  
 2023 Rich Turner Jennie Marshall

**Boy Scout Charter Rep.** Bob Hamp

(December Pick Me Up Moments continued from page 11.)

Dec. 27: One cry awakened the world; One birth changed history; One life made all the difference. Unknown  
 Dec. 28: Are you part of the Inn Crowd or are you one of the Stable few? Unknown  
 Dec. 29: May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope; the Spirit of Christmas which is peace; the heart of Christmas which is love. Unknown  
 Dec. 30: All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ. David Jeremiah  
 Dec. 31: Jesus is the gift that perfectly fits the size of every heart. Unknown

## DECEMBER PICK ME UP MOMENTS

Thanks to Carol Pittman

- Dec. 01: For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16
- Dec. 02: Let every heart prepare Him room. Unknown
- Dec. 03: May the peace and joy of Christmas live in your heart all year long. Peter Muller
- Dec. 04: Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world. C.S. Lewis
- Dec. 05: Bless us Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind. Helen Steiner Rice
- Dec. 06: It's not what's under the Christmas tree that matters but who's around it. Charlie Brown
- Dec. 07: It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving. Mother Teresa
- Dec. 08: Without Christ there would be no Christmas, and without Christ there can be no fullness of joy. Ezra Taft Benson
- Dec. 09: The greatest gift wasn't wrapped in shiny silver paper but in Swaddling clothes. Unknown
- Dec. 10: A hug is the perfect Christmas gift---one size fits all and it's return Is wonderfully appreciated. David Jeremiah
- Dec. 11: Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To a friend, your heart. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect. Oren Arnold
- Dec. 12: Jesus is the Light of Christmas, the joy of our hearts, and the hope of the world. Unknown
- Dec. 13: Jesus Christ is the Light that dispels fear, provides assurance and direction, and engenders enduring peace and joy. David A. Bednar
- Dec. 14: Jesus is the only reason for the season. Unknown
- Dec. 15: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:14
- Dec. 16: Because He came to earth, we have a perfect example to follow. Thomas S. Monson
- Dec. 17: The sweetest gift given at Christmas will always be the one our Savior Himself gave us: His perfect peace. L. Whitney Clayton
- Dec. 18: When they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. Matthew 2:10
- Dec. 19: The beauty of Christmas is not in the presents, but His presence. Unknown
- Dec. 20: Glory to God in the Highest. Luke 2:14
- Dec. 21: The best way to celebrate the birth of the Child is with faith like a child. Unknown
- Dec. 22: Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus. Neal A. Maxwell
- Dec. 23: Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly Merry Christmas. Peg Bracken
- Dec. 24: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11
- Dec. 25: Christ is Born! Let the heaven's rejoice and the earth be glad. Psalm 96:11
- Dec. 26: During this season of giving, let us take time to slow down and enjoy the simple things. Schnell Denker

(Continued on page 10.)

# *December Birthdays and Anniversaries*

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

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Paul Schutte
- 3 - Phyllis Tunning
- 4 - Ta

ri Wolf

- 6 - Bob Mendenhall
- 8 - Charles Bryant
- 8 - Cheryl Creach
- 9 - Michele Leyrer
- 10 - Cory Stewart
- 13 - Matt Snyder
- 14 - Ben Gallihugh
- 14 - Flo Moore
- 14 - Jennifer Rinker
- 14 - Joyce Zugelter
- 17 - Linda Prohaska
- 18 - Rick Broshear
- 19 - Cody Sines (16 yrs.)
- 21 - Pam Finfrock
- 24 - Marlis Hatton
- 24 - Charlene Miller
- 25 - Sarah Hard
- 27 - Cindy Brown
- 27 - Nancy Bumpus
- 29 - Pat Sena
- 29 - Tom Tierney
- 30 - Ira Begley



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 - Bud & Shirley Aydlett
- 27 - George & Belinda Peters
- 28 - Marty & Gay Kubik
- 29 - Tom & Charlotte Tierney



**St. Mark' Family,**

The Craft Ladies would like to thank you all for participating in our sales. Special thanks to Julie for taking pictures and Pastor Joe for spot lighting our crafts in his daily Uplifting moments. The proceeds, of approximately \$1300, went to the Parking lot and lighting.

## **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