



Follow Me

**Worship Series for the Season after Epiphany**

Week 5

“She Began to Serve”

*Let us celebrate service today, but not as another call to do more, to give more, to work harder or to fill our overburdened schedules with work. Yes, there is always a call to more service. But instead, let's celebrate service by saying “thank you.”*



**February 7, 2021, 9:30 am**

**In-Person & Live Streamed on YouTube and Facebook**

**[www.facebook.com/fairfieldstmarks](http://www.facebook.com/fairfieldstmarks)**

# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Sue Combs

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

GREETING and CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Joe and Linda

God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

**God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.**

God embraces the wounded and broken.

**God knocks down the walls of division and strife.**

God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

**God is the light of our lives.**

God is the one who makes all things new.

**Praise be to God, now and forevermore!**

— based on materials by Peter K. Perry, and posted on Richard Fairchild's Kirshalom website.

Reposted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/call-to-worship-prayer-epiphany-4b.html>

HYMN

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

UMH 57

OPENING PRAYER

Linda Payne

**God of mercy and love, be with us this morning as we hear the stories of Jesus and his compassion. Remind us again that we also need to be people of hope and compassion in this world which seems so dark. You, O God, open the doors of blessings. You reveal to us the many ways in which Jesus reached out to others at their time of need. Inspire our hearts and lift our spirits this day, for we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

## WE HEAR THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Peggy Smith

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:29-39

Linda Payne

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"She Began to Serve"

Pastor Joe

## WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

SOLO

"Thank You"

Chris Beiser

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYER

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Silence*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!  
Glory to God. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ

Offering Moment

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (*Using "sins" and "...sin against us."*)

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

*Receive the bread and cup in the sanctuary or at home (in extremis) at the direction of the pastor.*

## WE DEPART TO SERVE THE LORD

HYMN

"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"

UMH 569

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

**I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God sent the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.  
In Him, there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

POSTLUDE

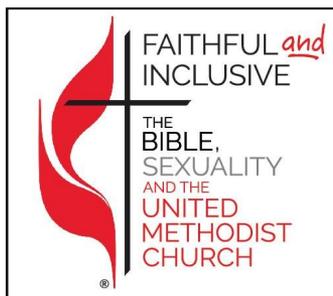
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **FAITHFUL and INCLUSIVE:**

#### **Next Class begins**

**Thursdays 6:30—8:00 pm,  
February 18—March 25**

Two current Bible Study classes of 9 participants each plus Pastor Joe are currently meeting. Now, one additional Bible Study opportunity is coming soon.



The goal of this study is not to get everyone to think alike. It's to give information and tools to help you come to your own understanding and to be able to share your beliefs with others.

The aim of this class can be summed up this way:

- To understand better what the Bible says regarding non-heterosexual practices, and why it says it, and
- To consider how Christians committed to upholding biblical authority can take a non-literal approach to these passages.

We will meet via Zoom. You will receive a Zoom invite after you sign up and closer to the meeting date. You will need a PC, tablet, or smartphone with a cam, microphone, and internet in order to participate in this virtual classroom. Those unfamiliar with Zoom meetings will be given further instruction on request.

There is no cost to be a part of the class. Call 844-1818 to reserve your place, or sign up on St. Mark's Facebook Page Events.

**BROKEN BUS MINISTRY:** The Broken Bus Ministry is once again allowing volunteers on their rides downtown to serve. St. Mark's has reserved two dates; **February 20th and April 10th**. Those that volunteer must be from the same household and masks and other safety procedures will be in place. If you are interested in either riding or providing the meal, or if you have questions, please contact Julie at 505-4061.

**PASTOR JOE'S DAILY PICK ME UP MOMENTS:** Pastor Joe

will now be doing his words of inspiration and just being in touch with everyone on a weekly basis, every Wednesday around 1:30 to 2 pm on Facebook. If you can't watch at that time, you can always watch any other time afterwards on Facebook that day.

**BLOOD DRIVE:** The next Blood Drive at St. Mark's will be on **Wednesday, March 17th from 3:30 to 7:30 pm.** You may now sign up on St. Mark's Facebook page. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Theodor at 748-1085.

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

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES** - Available in Fellowship Hall. You may get them on Sunday morning or any morning Monday—Thursday from 9 to Noon. If these times do not work out for you, please call the church office to arrange a time for you to get your envelopes.

**FAIRFIELD FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER OPENINGS:** The pantry is in need of a Recording Secretary and a Corresponding Secretary. Board meetings are held the second Tuesday each month and positions will also be on the board of Trustees. If interested, please send your information to **hr@fairfieldfoodpantry.org** to obtain an application.

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## **Sunday Requests and Updates:**

Bob Grammel is still in Ft. Hamilton Hospital and he now has Covid.

Schumakers are now over Covid and thank everyone for cards, prayers and well wishes.

Flo Moore asked prayers for her brother, Joe Goebel, in Mercy Fairfield for medical tests. They think he has Lung cancer.

Debbie Flannery asked for an unspoken request.

Prayers for a young family struggling to hold it together.

Tomie O'Sullivan's arm is on the mend and not broken.

She gives praises for her 1st vaccination shot.

Prayers for Julie Mislansky's cousin, Dewilda and her family. Her husband passed away this week.

Julie with unspoken prayer requests.

Sympathy to Jeff Gering and family as his sister passed away.

Request from Debbie Hill for Jim Hughes who is in ICU and seriously ill with pneumonia.

## **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	Mitch Thomas	All shut-ins and
United Methodist Church	Lori Palmieri (Pat Coyle's daughter)	Homebound

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

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

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

Heather Brosey 1/10	Neil Hume family 1/24
Danny Thomas 1/10	Hartsman family 1/24
Grandson, Steven 1/10	Carson family 1/24
Ralph Brown 1/10	Jim & Martin Ruhl 1/24
Norine Miller Hopkins 1/17	Jenni's daughter, Morgan 1/24
Megan Riley 1/17	Unspoken request 1/24
Friend, Amy's family 1/17	Family of Miranda Perry 1/24
Dave Convoy 1/17	Charlotte's Mom 1/24
Gary 1/17	Donna's brother, Ray Rettinger 1/24
Janet Kleinholz 1/17	
Don Jackson 1/17	
Carson Kennedy 1/17	

# St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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

## STAFF

Pastor	Joe 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 given in celebration of the 60th Wedding Anniversary on February 11th of Dick & Darlene Kuertz. Happy 60th!

... are given for Jeff Gering and family in memory of his sister, Mary Ann Dove, who passed away last week. Flowers are from his St. Mark's Wednesday Prayer Group.

### St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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