



Holy Vessels

A Lenten Season of Recovery

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Journey to Wholeness

“O Love That Will Not Let Us Go”

Marking One Year of the Pandemic



March 14, 2021, 9:30 am

In-Person & Live Streamed on YouTube and Facebook

www.facebook.com/fairfieldstmarks

GATHER

People gather around Jesus as his reputation becomes known from town to town. As we gather virtually or physically, we too are yearning for presence, for peace, for help.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Joe Payne

LENTEN WORSHIP THEME

Chris Beiser

Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul
Healer, come.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Linda Payne

**Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul
Healer, come.**

APPROACH

*People opened their lives to Jesus. We are drawn to the Healer
-opening our hearts with honesty about our lives
and finding assurance that offers peace.*

OPENING PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels so that we might be able to create and imagine new possibilities, new solutions.
Let us pray: God of All Possibilities....

....It all feels overwhelming and so we look away,
sometimes even from the need in our own community.

**Help us, Healer.
Show us our energy reserves.
Forgive our cynicism.
Move us to move
one step at a time toward greater care for one another.**

Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE

PEACE The Peace of Christ is with you. **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" UMH 780

BELIEVE

People were fortified by Jesus' words and deeds that revealed care for all—especially those marginalized. We strengthen our belief in the possibility for renewed health and vigor for all.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Peggy Smith

A CONTEMPORARY WORD Pastor Joe

MUSICAL PROCLAMATION "Abide With Me" Mark Hensler

AN ANCIENT WORD - SCRIPTURE Matthew 9:18-26 Linda

SERMON "Journey to Wholeness" Pastor Joe

ASK

People who were healed by Jesus were not afraid to ask. And so we come before the Holy One, making our petitions and desires known, trusting the work of the Spirit.

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT

RESPOND

Scriptural accounts of healing often end with responses from the "crowd" of witnesses. How will we proceed into the brokenness of this world and respond as the Body of Christ?

CLOSING HYMN "Be Thou My Vision" UMH 451

BLESSING

Vessels, holy and whole...

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY - UMCOR SUNDAY: This is our annual special offering for UMCOR, The United Methodist Committee on Relief. This yearly offering provides for all the administrative costs needed for UMCOR so that all other donations during the year can be used 100% for the project it is being donated to. St. Mark's has a history of giving generously to this cause. Last year, our donations were close to \$2000! If you'd like to give, please include it in your regular offering, give online on our St. Mark's webpage, or drop your offering off at the church office. Please designate "UMCOR" on the check or envelope. Thank you!

BLOOD DRIVE: Wednesday, March 17th from 3:30 to 7:30 pm. Please sign up on St. Mark's Facebook page. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Theodor at 748-1085.

FAIRFIELD FOOD PANTRY FOOD DRIVE:
Wednesday, March 17th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm and
Thursday, March 18th from 10:00 to noon.

St. Mark's Cares committee members will be outside, by the kitchen door, to collect your donations. This time we are focusing on the pantry's most common needed items:

Bars of soap, full sized toothpaste, full sized shampoo, toilet paper, laundry detergent, dish soap, sanitizing wipes, baby wipes, and diapers.

Peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, macaroni and cheese, cereal, snacks, spaghetti and sauce, canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.) dried pasta and rice.

EASTER EGGS: The hunt is on and we are asking you for Egg Hunt Donations. You can pick up bags of empty eggs to fill for our Easter Egg Hunt. Bags of eggs will be by the kitchen door and in Fellowship Hall for easy pick up. Please return eggs **by Sunday, March 27th.** The Egg Hunt is set for Saturday, April 3.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28: Palm/Passion Sunday. Leading up to this day, we hope to deliver a palm branch to every household and every child. We will also have palms for those that come to worship on Palm Sunday.

BROKEN BUS MINISTRY: St. Mark's has reserved **April 10th** to serve on the bus. We have our riders secured! Watch our Facebook page for the opportunity to help with the meal. If you have questions, please contact Julie at 505-4061.

FAITHFUL and INCLUSIVE:

New Classes begin -

Thursdays 6:30, April 8, 15, 29, May 6, 13, 20

So far, 31 persons have or are taking this class. Great participation! We need at least eight per class, so please sign up. I don't want to cancel.

One aim of this class:

- To consider how United Methodist Christians committed to upholding biblical authority take a non-literal, yet serious, approach to their study of the Bible.

We will meet via Zoom. You will receive a Zoom invite after you sign up and closer to the meeting date. There is no cost. Call 844-1818 to reserve your place, or sign up on St. Mark's Facebook Page Events.

PASTOR JOE'S UPWORDS: Pastor Joe is doing 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 St. Mark's Facebook page.

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.

UPPER ROOMS: The March/April Upper Rooms are now available. They are in a box by the kitchen door and also on the Narthex Welcome center.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Requests of March 7th:

Please keep Diana Griffith in your prayers as she continues her battle with cancer.

Glenn Campbell, Linda Prohaska's brother, having surgery on Monday for a small amount of Lung cancer. He just celebrated his 75th birthday.

Healing prayers for Betty Roark who just had Knee surgery Friday.

Prayers for Brenda as she prepares for her upcoming Lung tests next Monday.

Freida Hawkin's sister's great granddaughter, Gracie, who is 2 yrs. old and has Bone cancer.

Bill Hansbauer's (friend of Jeff Gering) father was diagnosed with Throat cancer and his mother with diagnosed with Scoliosis of the spine.

Prayers for Brenda, Marlis, Bud and Danny Thomas.

Sue Luken asked for continued prayers for Sarah as she is struggling to fully recover from her concussion and is feeling frustrated.

Prayers for Sharon Hamp as she is having more tests on her heart this week.

Elaine Shreve asked prayers for Dale as he fell again and has a fracture of the L3 vertebrae.

Willa Ramsey asked prayers for a school friend that lost her son unexpectedly. He grew up with Willa's children.

Jim Jones' son's fiancé, Beverly, stomach surgery.

Jim Jones' grandson, Steven's wife got a job in Dayton and requests prayers for new endeavor.

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 Diana Griffith

St. Mark's Homebound / Shut-ins

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

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

Debbie Flannery's Sister-in-law, Karen 2/14	Layne Nelson 2/21
Friend with Lymphoma 2/14	Sharon Hamp 2/21
Kristy Theiss 2/14	Taylor Bradley, Kym's friend 2/28
Diane Noonan & donor Jill 2/14	Mother of friend, Mike 2/28
Family of Don Jackson 2/14	Gary, friend of Virginia Shaw's daughter 2/28
Family of Danielle, Marty Kubik's sister 2/14	Pam Hard 2/28
Grammel Family 2/14	

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 59th Wedding anniversary
on March 17th of Rich and Joyce Zugelter by their family.
Happy Anniversary!

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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