



SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S

MARCH 2021

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



Dear St. Mark's Family,

Lenten blessings to you!

As we walk with Jesus to the Cross, I hope you are gaining some deeper understanding of the metaphor we are using during our Lenten Worship Series, Holy Vessels. The author of the series, Marcia McFee, writes,

“Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness – body, mind, and spirit – like a glass vessel fractured into pieces.”

For sure, we have gone through much this past year. As a glass vessel is broken by the storms of the sea, we have likewise experienced brokenness. We have suffered pain and loss, some more so than others. However, we also understand this truth: we know that God does not will our suffering, but God can redeem it. As those broken pieces of glass are tossed and turned against the waves and the sand, they are polished and become beautiful in their own right. And, like a beachcomber, gathering and marveling at every precious surviving piece of beach glass she finds, Jesus gathers us - broken as we are - to touch us and to remind us of the treasure that we all are – worthy of new life in the midst of hopelessness.

During this Lenten season, may you be reassured that our Crucified and Risen Savior treasures each one of you!

Looking ahead, you are invited to join us in-person or live stream...

March 14 – We will mark this anniversary of the lockdown by looking back at all that has taken place this previous year. Also, Daylight Savings Time begins. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.

March 28 – Palm/Passion Sunday. Leading up to this day, we hope to deliver a palm branch to every household and every child.

April 1 – Maundy Thursday – This service will not be in-person. It will be a recorded service that will play Thursday evening. We will experience a Living Last Supper, with Holy Communion. See Chris Beiser's article in this Spirit of St. Mark's for more details on this beautiful service.

April 4 – Easter! How many of you hope to attend in person on this Day of Resurrection? Whether we have 20 or 200, we want to plan ahead and be prepared. To help us in our planning, we will be polling the congregation to find out your plans. Your response will help us to prepare for this great day.

St. Mark's Opportunities *(Fellowship, Participation, Study, Serve)*



Wednesday, March 17th
3:30 - 7 pm
St. Mark's Fellowship Hall

Sign up now on our Facebook page.

Contact Erin Theodor, 748-1085, if you have any questions.



Please call the church office if you would like to have flowers some Sunday on the Altar. The price is \$14.50 each vase.

Orders must be received by end of day on Wednesday.

You can get the flowers after the service, Monday morning, or call the office to arrange a time.

Think SPRING!!!

GARDEN PLANNING TIME

It's getting closer to that time again where we dream of spring and new growth. So we are in the planning stage of thinking about our Pumpkin Patch for next fall! It is our dream that we could get a small group from you our church family to take ownership of this project, and maybe even consider expanding our garden to include a select few choice vegetables that we could grow to share with our local Fairfield Food Pantry! We are looking for maybe 4-5 people to take leadership of this project.

If you feel called or are interested, please contact either Julie Mislansky at knauffjj@icloud.com or 505-4061, or Sue Luken at suzluken@hotmail.com or 257-8862.

We look forward to hearing from YOU!

FAITHFUL and INCLUSIVE

New Classes begin-

Wednesdays March 10—April 7, 10:30 - Noon
Thursdays April 8, 15, 29, May 6, 13, 20, 6:30 pm.

From the Study:

"People are expressing a variety of questions, opinions, and misunderstandings, along with strong desires to learn more about the Bible and what it says about divisive claims regarding people of non-traditional sexual identities. Some wonder how United Methodists can come to such different understandings of Scripture. Others want to study the scriptures that actually address this topic. And still others wish they could have the opportunity to discuss opinions in a safe, open, Christian environment.

(see next page)



St. Mark's Financial Update

Tim Mislansky, Treasurer

Hello St. Mark's Family,

2021 is off to a good start. Giving for January was strong with over \$35,000 contributed to St. Mark's. Several church families make their annual gift in January so it's typically a strong month. This year we are up 14% over last January.

Our expenses for the month were very typical with nothing out of the ordinary. We spent just over \$23,000 to "run the church" for the month. It may sound like a broken record, but we made our first installment of apportionments on time. We hear that many other churches are struggling to meet their apportionments so we should be proud that we are able.

We are well ahead of our budget as we start out the year – so that's great news. Our money in the bank is at \$74,000 due to the strong giving month, \$27,000 in the parking lot fund to do the lights (and that's more than enough for the project) and designated funds.

Not much else to report as it was a pretty typical and boring month for finances, which is a good thing! In summary, your continued generosity allows St. Mark's to be in a good financial position. Thank you!

If you have questions about anything related to St. Mark's finances, please do not hesitate to ask either me or Gale.

Sincerely,

Tim Mislansky, Treasurer
Gale Goodman, Finance Chair

Faithful And Inclusive, cont'd.

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

The aim of this class:

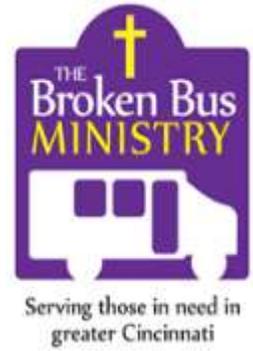
- To understand better what the Bible says regarding non-heterosexual practices, and why it says it, and
- To consider how Christians committed to upholding biblical authority can take a non-literal approach to these passages.

We will begin classes 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.

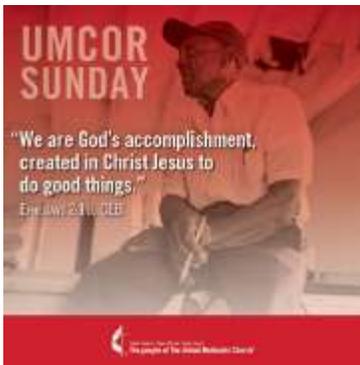


ST. MARK'S MISSIONS and OUTREACH

Thank you to Sue McDaniel, Jenni Hensler, Beth Ewald, Cindy Booker, Susan Bunte, and Linda Payne for supplying the food for the January 20th Broken Bus serve. Our next serve is Saturday, April 10th. We have our riders secured! Watch our Facebook page for the opportunity to help with the meal.



UMCOR SUNDAY- MARCH 14



UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, reaches people who are at their most vulnerable in the United States and across the globe. Whether it is in the wake of a natural disaster, the aftermath of war and conflict, helping those who suffer from hunger or lack of clean water, the United Methodist Church is able to respond because of the work of UMCOR. UMCOR also works with communities to train, educate, and equip them with resources and practices so they will have greater sustainability with agriculture.

This annual special offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This helps UMCOR to keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.

Last year, St. Marks collected \$1855 as our contribution to UMCOR Sunday!

Thank you for your generosity! You may give to this special offering anytime between now and March 14th. Checks should be made to St. Mark's UMC and indicate on the memo line or your offering envelope "UMCOR."



Our next food drive for the **Fairfield Food Pantry** will be held on **Wednesday, March 17th from 4:00-6:00** and **Thursday, March 18th from 10:00 – noon**. We will be by the kitchen door to receive your donations. There will also be donation bins in the Fellowship Hall and the narthex where you can drop off your items anytime during office hours, Monday-Thursday, 9:00-noon.

This collection we will be focusing on common items that are always in need:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Peanut butter | Bars of soap |
| Canned fruits/vegetables | Full size Toothpaste |
| Macaroni and cheese | Full size Shampoo |
| Cereal | Toilet paper |
| Snacks | Laundry detergent |
| Spaghetti/sauce | Dish soap |
| Canned meats | Sanitizing wipes |
| Dried pasta and rice | Baby wipes/Diapers |



We will be providing the meal for **Serve City on Saturday, March 27th**. Our menu will be a taco bar with all the fixings!

Watch our Facebook page in mid-March for sign-ups.

Thank you for always being so willing to make delicious food for the residents of Serve City!



**YOUTH WITH THE COOKIES THEY MADE AND DECORATED
FOR THE ST. MARK'S CALLERS**





MUSIC MINISTRY

Chris Beiser - Director of Music

You know God makes “art” out of our moments of brokenness, sin, and mistakes. These works are made up of 1000’s of broken pieces, skillfully picked up, dusted off, then masterfully put together into awesome new pieces.

Our Lenten series is going to do just that very thing! We are all going to begin this journey as shattered glass rolling in the sea. We are tossed and tumbled until our sharp edges are smoothed and rounded and then we are finally washed ashore. We have been changed. Each piece can beautifully stand alone, or put many pieces back together to create a vessel that is even more magnificent than the original. I’m so very excited to begin this series!

How will music play a part? Each Sunday will have a theme and the hymns and special music will be selected to go along with that. The hope will be that the music will tie the service together adding another element to compliment the Scripture, prayers, responses, Children’s moment, and sermon. Just as it has been with other series that we’ve done, there will be a couple of songs we will sing as a congregation each week to bring us all together into the service and the theme for that particular Sunday.

For our Maundy Thursday service, I’m putting together a special music/drama presentation that will be recorded to be watched that evening, or at a time convenient to you.

Several years ago the choir presented the cantata “The Living Last Supper”. This cantata was from the point of view of the 12 apostles gathered at the Last Supper. Each apostle tells a short story about their time with Jesus and each ask the haunting question...Is it I that will betray you? 12 men from our congregation will depict the apostles, there will be choir selections from past cantatas, as well as individual musicians providing music that will tie the whole powerful presentation together.

In closing, remember a stained glass window’s pieces individually are just a mess, a scattered jigsaw puzzle. But once the Master’s hand groups these pieces of glass together, the creation is something that takes your breath away!

I look forward to starting this Lenten series with you. I’ll “see” you online or in person on Sunday morning.

Chris Beiser

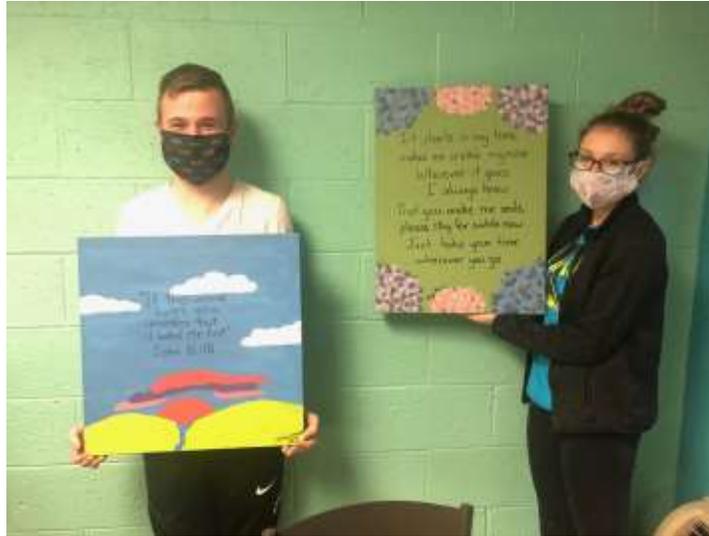


YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

JULIE MISLANSKY, YOUTH DIRECTOR



Late January and February brought us TOGETHER! On the last day of January we gathered in the Fellowship Hall to finally paint our artwork for the youth room walls! Each youth chose a quote, scripture, song lyric, or special symbol to create as their contribution to the room. We have some very talented youth! Check out their art below!



MORE YOUTH PICTURES ON PAGE 6 AND 10!

In February, we met to decorate Valentine cookies and write Valentine cards. Each youth family took three plates of cookies and delivered them to our St. Mark's Calling Team - a special group of 15 women and 1 gentleman who keep tabs on our congregation and make sure everyone is ok! This was our way to show love and give back to our church family.

Coming up on February 19th, we are meeting with the children of St. Mark's to have a Pottery Night! We will each be sculpting our own plate and chalice (cup) to use for at-home communion. This should be a fun time! Huge thanks to Peggy Smith who will be leading this event!

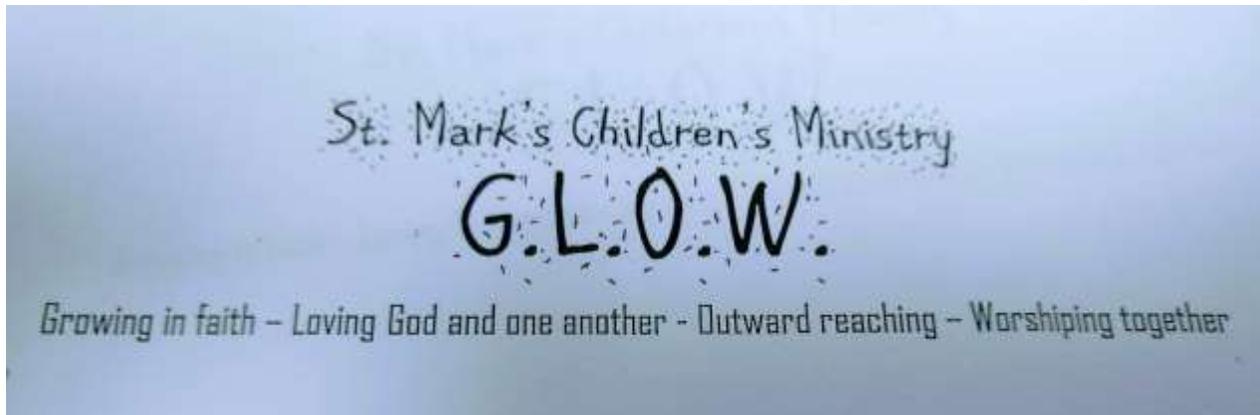
March will bring, hopefully, less snow, no cancelled plans, and more togetherness! Plans include gathering in our updated youth room, studying our Lent curriculum, and working with the Broken Bus on a new project!

Growing Together,
Julie

PS You have no idea how excited I am to NOT use the word Zoom in this month's update!!!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

PEGGY SMITH, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES



EASTER EGG HUNT - SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD @ 1:00 PM

After much discussion, the CYF team has decided that it would be safe to have a scaled down Egg Hunt this year. We are planning an afternoon of fun, but with the following guidelines:

- * The hunt will be outdoors only. If it rains, the hunt will be canceled and eggs will be available for pick up at church.
- * The hunt will not be advertised as it has been in the past. It will be for children and families connected with St. Mark's,
 - * Crafts will be "take home" activities.
 - * This will be a social distancing event. Adults, please wear masks.

PALM BRANCHES

We will deliver Palm branches to families again this year. If you didn't get one last year and would like to have them for your home worship, please call the church office and leave a message, or message Peggy.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Praying with and for one another is one of the best parts for being part of a faith community. Modeling this for our children and youth gives them something to lean into during difficult times.

If you would like your child to be paired with an adult prayer partner, please email Peggy at p.smith@fairfieldstmarks.com or Julie at j.mislanski@fairfieldstmarks.com

VBS - SAVE THE DATE! AUGUST 1ST-5TH. More details to follow.

MORE YOUTH ART FOR THE YOUTH ROOM



MARCH PICK ME UP MOMENTS

Thanks to Carol Pittman

- March 01 – I've learned that two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different. Ryaj Ablando Catayas
- March 02 – When you see something beautiful in someone, tell them. It may take a second to say, but for them it could last a lifetime. Unknown
- March 03 – When God calls us to step out of our comfort zone, He is not calling us to be comfortable in the situation, He is calling us to be comfortable in Him in spite of the situation. Stacy L. Sanchez
- March 04 – Don't wait for things to get better. Life always will be complicated. Learn to be happy right now, otherwise you'll run out of time. Unknown
- March 05 – What God knows about me is more important than what others think of me. Surgeo Bell
- March 06 – I have too many flaws to be perfect. But I have too many blessings to be ungrateful. Zig Ziglar
- March 07 – Worship gets you through the hardest time in your life because it shifts your focus from the problem to the problem solver. Unknown
- March 08 – We forget that waking up each day is the first thing we should be grateful for. Unknown
- March 09 – A mistake that makes you humble is better than an achievement that makes you arrogant. Unknown
- March 10 – The greatest gift you can give someone is your time. Because when you give your time, you are giving a portion of your life that you will never get back. Rick Warren
- March 11 – Make someone smile every day, but never forget that you are someone too. Tamara Kulish
- March 12 – Take what you have and use it to create what you want. Unknown
- March 13 – When we think, "It's too late", God whispers, "I still have a plan". Unknown
- March 14 – A journey to God starts with one step at a time. He doesn't expect you to run the mile, but He promises to give you strength to go the distance. Unknown
- March 15 – Wherever life plants you, bloom with Grace. Unknown
- March 16 – No matter how much experience you have, there's always something new you can learn and room for improvement. Ray T. Bennett
- March 17 – The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well. Ralph Waldo Emerson
- March 18 – Generosity is the best investment. Diane Von Furstenburg
- March 19 – It's not what you do; it's why you do it. Unknown
- March 20 – The worst distance between two people is misunderstanding. Neetesh Dixit
- March 21 – A day of rest yields a hundred days of progress. Adrienne Posey
- March 22 – Be humble to see your mistakes, courageous to admit them, and wise enough to correct them. Arnine Ayad
- March 23 – Because I cannot rely on myself, I rely on Him, twenty-four hours a day. Mother Teresa
- March 24 – If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so prayerfully, However, the wisest thing you can do is to be present in the present---Gratefully. Maya Angelou
- March 25 – Life is not about being rich, being popular or being the best looking. It is about being real, being humble and being kind. Unknown
- March 26 – Getting knocked down in life is a given. Getting up and moving forward is a choice. Zig Ziglar
- March 27 – Don't forget a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated. H. Jackson Brown
- March 28 – One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say. Bryant H. McGill
- March 29 – You can't have a better tomorrow if you're still thinking about yesterday. Charles F. Kettering
- March 30 – The happiest people in life are the givers, not the getters.
- March 31 – Kindness is a wonderful way to let another struggling soul know that there is still love in the world. Unknown

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Steve Griffith
- 1 - Kristina Stanifer
- 2 - Mike Aiken
- 5 - Lee Brinkmeyer
- 11 - Denny Mullen
- 13 - Nick Alcorn
- 14 - Kathy Fitzpatrick
- 16 - Mark Luken
- 19 - Paul Huelsman
- 20 - Chris Beiser
- 20 - Ben Hartwig
- 21 - Colin George - 14 yrs.
- 21 - Tyler George - 14 yrs.
- 22 - Pat Fassnacht
- 22 - Carolyn Janosik
- 22 - Kaden Theiss - 10 yrs.
- 23 - Bill Dichtl
- 23 - Jim Jones
- 24 - Barb Lowry
- 24 - Judy Scofield
- 24 - Cameron Smoot
- 27 - Dick Brewer
- 27 - Doreen Robinson



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 - Don & Marilyn Stewart
- 7 - Wayne & Tari Randall
- 7 - Andy & Ann Shellman
- 17 - Rich & Joyce Zugelter
- 29 - Greg & Marilyn Peters



To Our St. Mark's Family,
Thank you so much for all of your
kind and thoughtful cards and prayers
of Larry's sister, Nancy Miracle.
St. Mark's is such a great family!

Love You All!
Larry & Sue Miller

St. Mark's Family,

I want to thank you for the cards I received as my brothers
and sisters and I grieved over the loss of my oldest sister,
Marianne Gering Dove. She had colon cancer and was
going through radiation and chemo treatments.
Thank you to the St. Mark's Prayer Group members who
donated flowers on the altar for the Jan. 7th service.
Again, thank you for your thoughts and prayers during
this time.

Jeff Gering

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
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fairfieldstmarks.com

Worship Service:
Sundays 9:30 am
Live Streamed