SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S June 2021

The Mission of St. Mark's United Methodist Church is to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This June Newsletter is packed full of news and information for you, our St. Mark's Family.

- Pg. 2 "Pastor Payne Ponders" All Church Event: "Dessert and Discuss"
- Pg. 3 G.L.O.W. News, including... "Taste the Bread" June 27 Save the dates: VBS Aug. 1–5
- Pgs. 4—5 Youth Group Happenings, including Mission Week June 14—18
- Pg. 5 A New Flag for St. Mark's, thanks to Troop 960
- Pgs. 6—7 St. Mark's Cares, including A Special Offering for Benji Sayre School Supply Drive Big Brothers / Big Sisters Walk/Run 5k
- Pgs. 8—9 *Room at the Table*, including Top Ten Reasons
- Pg. 10 Trustees Happenings, including All-Church Service Day June 5
- Pg. 11 Pick-Me-Up Moments
- Pg. 12 Financial Update
- Pg. 13 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Pg. 14 Church Calendar
- Pg. 15 photos: Graduates; Russ Carr and Jean Bennett
- Pg. 16 (back cover) Job Opening



Pastor Payne Ponders



Dear St. Mark's Family,

Since last Sunday was Pentecost, my thoughts have been drawn to the Second Chapter of Acts, including the last verse:

And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts 2:47b

I love that Luke writes "being saved," rather than just "saved." That's a small, but significant detail many often overlook. There were 3000 baptized that day, and day by day more were added. But, being baptized and added to the number was not a one-time event. It marked the beginning of a journey that went for a lifetime and beyond. How beautiful is that? we aren't "saved," but we are "being saved," day by day.

Last Sunday, Samuel Allen Saylor was baptized. This marked the beginning of his journey. This coming Sunday, nine persons are expected to be received as new members of our congregation. Each of them were baptized some time ago. This coming Sunday will mark the continuation of their individual journeys. And their journey continues as they remain faithful to Christ by participating in the ministries of St. Mark's.

Salvation is not a one—time event. It is a journey. As life goes on, have confidence and the assurance that the grace of God goes with you every step of your way.

I am excited and thankful for Samuel. I'm excited and thankful for these nine candidates for membership. I'm excited and thankful for <u>you</u>.

Journeying together,

loc

PS Look for emails and in your bulletin for upcoming changes to our Covid-19 protocols. Until the changes are in place, we will continue to mask. Blessings!

Looking Ahead....

June 6—"Being Renewed" Mark 3:20-35

June 13—"Growing in the New Creation" Mark 4:26-34

- June 20— "Enduring the Storms" Mark 4:35-41 Happy Father's Day
- June 27— "Giving What You Have" 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

You Are Invited June 21 @ 6:30 pm

Dessert & Discussion

The *Room at the Table* team invites all to an evening of fellowship and conversation related to our possible relationship with Reconciling Ministries. During the evening we will view a documentary, as well as allow plenty of time for discussion. Plus, we will have fresh strawberries and ice cream! All are welcome

St. Mark's Children's Ministry

Growing in faith - Loving God and one another - Dutward reaching - Worshiping together

St. Mark's

Children's Ministry

Welcome Back!

We are so happy to be meeting in person on Sundays during worship. (With the exception of the first Sunday)

Taste the Bread June 27th directly after worship

A fun opportunity for families to come together and explore the meaning of Holy Communion. Learn why all are included in this meal, no matter the age. Partaking in this meal each month helps us feel more connected with God and to the community of church.

SAVE THE DATE VBS Rocky Railway August 1-5, 6:15-8:30

Plus Backpack Sunday August 15th

If you are interested in helping with Children's Ministry, please connect Peggy Smith at p.smith@fairfieldstmarks.com or 513 307-4509



YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

Julie Mislansky, Director of Youth Ministries

Greetings from the youth of St. Mark's!

We are a small, but mighty group who have been busy having fun and serving our church!







We helped with GLOW Sunday School on May 16 and will join them again on June 20. The youth helped the children make mosaic stones that we will use to decorate the courtyard area. Speaking of the courtyard, the furniture is freshly painted, and we also plan to make some larger mosaic stepping stones to add to the area.





Thanks to your generosity and your joining in on the flamingo fun, **we raised \$555 with our flocking fundraiser!!!** THANK YOU for your support! We heard countless words of support and overall fun and joy with this project. We plan to use a portion of our money to continue to further beautify the courtyard area. Be on the lookout!

YOUTH GROUP...

<u>We will be having a Youth Mission Week, June 14-18.</u> We will serve several local ministries and our very own St. Mark's church! The schedule is not in stone, but we are planning the following:

Serving a meal at Serve City on Tuesday, June 15, 5:30-7:00

Painting stones for a rock garden!Thursday, June 17, 6:30-8:00.Everyone is invited to this!!Come join us as Sharon Hamp facilitates the fun!You can take a rock home and leave one to add to a St. Mark's rock garden!

Other ideas in the planning stages; Car Wash in the parking lot to support Hamilton Living Waters Ministries, volunteering at the Fairfield Food Pantry, serving at the Fringe Coffee House and the Broken Bus, and a possible furniture drive for the ministry New Life Furniture.

Details will be set in place and a schedule will be out in early June. Watch the bulletin and our St. Mark's Facebook page for these details! **We would like to extend an invite to anyone who would like to join us!** More information will be coming soon about to sign up!

We also had a most fun evening at Urban Air, a trampoline park in early May and are planning another fun night out on June 1, putt-putt golf and ice cream!



A NEW U.S. FLAG FOR ST. MARK'S

On May 25 — just in time for Memorial Day — Boy Scout Troop 960 held a flag ceremony to retire our frayed and faded flag and to fly a new flag in its place. This flag was purchased by the troop as a good deed, with thanks to St. Mark's for serving as their Charter Organization. Thank you, Troop 960!

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY



ST. MARK'S CARES MISSIONS and OUTREACH

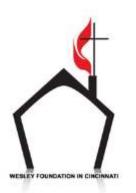
DIAPERS, DETERGENT, AND DISHES! Oh, my! As always, another super successful drive for our local pantry, Fairfield Food Pantry! They love to see Debbie Bryant pulling into the parking lot because they know St. Mark's is one of their biggest supporters. Thank you to everyone who contributed!



SUMMER MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Here is a look at our mission plans for Summer '21. I'm sure other things will pop up and we will find other ways to serve, but here is what is planned for now.

June Special offering in honor and support of Benji Sayre



The Rev. Benji Sayre was seriously injured in an automobile accident on April 18. Benji is the Campus Minister and Director of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Cincinnati and Associate Pastor at Clifton United Methodist Church. He serves the Ohio River Valley District in many ways, including working to motivate and equip youth directors. He is a special person; if you know him, he has impacted your life. You may remember he visited St. Mark's in February of 2019, as he shared about the Wesley House at UC and their ministry with college students. The St. Mark's Cares committee has since taken on The Wesley House as one of the ministries we support regularly.

Benji is has suffered traumatic brain injuries also known as TBIs. Benji's healing

will be long, perhaps months or years, and he will never be the same. In honor and in an act of prayer for his healing, we will be collecting a special offering on June 20, Father's Day. Benji is the dad of Clark and Annie Kate; husband to Molly.

The gifts we collect will be split between a fund that has been set up to support the family and The Wesley Foundation at UC. If you'd like to contribute, give as you normally do, but designate on the check or on your giving envelope "Benji."

July

School Supply Drive for Fairfield Schools



We will collect school supplies during the month of July for our local schools. All donations will be given to Dougie and Ray's to include in their annual "fill a backpack" ministry. You can bring your items anytime to the special bins in the narthex during July. July 25th will be the final day to donate. School supply sales usually start in mid to late June, so be on the lookout for the following items :

Dougie & Ray's School Supply Drive Shopping List

Please donate only the specific items on this list as these are what Fairfield Schools require.

Glue Sticks Pencils, standard #2 Elmer's Glue, 4 oz bottles **Dry Erase Markers** Crayola Crayons, 24 count Colored Pencils, 12-24 count Packs of Index Cards, 3 x 5 Packs of loose-leaf Paper, wide or college ruled **Composition Notebooks** Packs of blue, black, or red pens

AUGUST 14 Big Brothers Big Sisters Run4Kids 5K Walk/Run

SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 14, 2021



St. Mark's will have a team for anyone who would like to join us in this walk/run to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Butler County! This event will feature a chip-timed 5k, a kids' fun run obstacle course, superhero costume contest, and raffle prizes. **Registration is FREE!**

Join the St. Mark's Team!

More details to come later about how to register, but save the date of August 14th if you'd like to participate.

Room at the Table

Room at the Table is a new lay-led team at St. Mark's. The purpose of *Room at the Table* is to explore with the congregation the possibility of becoming a Reconciling Church. A Reconciling Church is a United Methodist Church that affiliates with the Reconciling Ministries Network (www.rmnetwork.org).



Here are...

Top 10 Reasons to Affiliate with Reconciling Ministries Network

1. Extend God's fully inclusive love and unconditional welcome - inviting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people into affirming spaces in which all can worship, serve, and find a faith community.

All are God's children and ours is Christ's Church. Jesus intentionally welcomed all and, as followers of Jesus, so should we. Our United Methodist Book of Discipline proclaims that "all persons are of sacred worth" and that "we commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons."

2. Challenge the default that The UMC is anti-LGBT and clarify the position of our church. We can make your position clear on LGBTQ justice and inclusion set apart from the denomination as a whole.

While very few United Methodists read the Book of Discipline, citizens of the world, United Methodists or not, are aware of the UMC's harmful denominational policy regarding LGBTQ equality. The absence of a clear statement to the contrary leads people to believe that we and our local churches endorse these policies that target and discriminate against LGBTQ people. If we don't say otherwise, it's assumed that we agree. Even if unintentional, this is a message we can't afford to send. Reconciling United Methodists, and Reconciling Churches, Communities, and Campuses are a light to shine brightly throughout the connection. Convey to your community that you are a different kind of church.

3. Help our current neighbors, new residents, and out of town guests find us.

RMN connects people and churches. Being listed in the RMN registry of inclusive churches is important. It allows prospective visitors to find Reconciling Churches and Communities by state and is widely used. Because of the harm the institutional Church has done to LGBTQ persons, visiting a church is a risk that requires courage. No matter how welcoming and affirming a church may be on the inside, LGBTQ friends will never experience that affirmation if it's not first expressed through an intentional, outward invitation. We place our welcome mats on the outside of the building, not just the inside.

4. Build and strengthen relationships within your church family.

The Reconciling process takes seriously the fundamental importance of relationships. The wholeness God envisions is unrealizable where human relationships remain broken. We can help overcome separation and find wholeness in these meaningful conversations that lead to affiliating with RMN.

Continued on next page...

5. Increase momentum in the local and national Reconciling movement to reflect our connectional nature and covenant.

Our heritage of connectionalism teaches us that we are stronger together than apart. Affiliating with RMN provides strength in resources, community, and momentum. It multiples the love and advocacy for LGBTQ justice. Taking this step of affiliation often inspires neighboring congregations and communities to engage in their own conversations resulting in more and more welcoming and affirming spaces for LGBTQ United Methodists.

6. Take up the Ministry of Reconciliation.

The ministry of Reconciliation is fulfilled when congregations move beyond "welcoming" to "advocating," beyond "accepting" to "transforming," and beyond "standing with" to "standing as."

7. Live out our Wesleyan heritage of evangelism.

Founder John Wesley said, "there is no holiness but social holiness" and instilled in us a responsibility to spread social holiness throughout the land, not as enforcers of a code but as grateful and generous agents of God's inclusive love and transforming grace.

8. Live out our global mission statement to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

In our affiliation with RMN we bear witness to the most identifiable characteristic of Jesus' disciples – love, and we seek first the kin-dom of God.

9. Individually and collectively, we fulfill our baptismal covenant by accepting the freedom and power God gives us "to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves."

One way we fulfill our baptismal covenant is by publicly resisting un-Christ-like policies and standing in solidarity with marginalized people. It is critical that we speak out against discrimination as being incompatible with God's love for all people.

10. Live as disciples of Christ who modeled and called us to love and to serve, most especially those pushed to the margins.

"Love your neighbor as yourself." "Now go and do likewise."

Want to learn more? Pastor Joe once again be offering the class, "Faithful and Inclusive." Look for details in upcoming Sunday Bulletins and our Facebook Page.

Here are a few of the many materials you can find and purchase for your own self-study

UnClobber: Rethinking our misuse of The Bible on Homosexuality, by Colby Martin Our Strangely Warmed Hearts, Coming Out Into God's Call, by Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto Together at the Table: Diversity without Division in The United Methodist Church, by Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto Torn, by Justin Lee Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality, by Jack Rogers God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships, by Matthew Vines

ST. MARK'S TRUSTEES

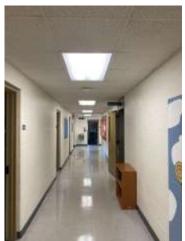
Our Trustees continue to be busy!

All are invited to join us on June 5th for our Church Work Day. This is your opportunity to take part in keeping the inside and outside of our church beautiful - look for picture updates in our July newsletter!

We are brightening up our hallways, replacing several of our fluorescent and non working lights with energy efficient LED's. Our latest installation has been the hallway adjacent to the sanctuary, and will gradually Thanks to Lee Brinkmeyer for installing!

We are Currently working with an electrician for an updated bid for our parking lot lighting. Very thankful to all those who have contributed to make this possible. There are a number of considerations included in adding the exterior lighting and thankful to Rich Turner for working with the electrician.

Our electrician has completed the work to update the outdated and faulty wiring in our youth area (including the youth directors office and bathroom).



As the use of the building increases as we return to the new normal, we will continue to identify projects within the church and parsonage keeping the facility safe.

Your Trustee Lead,

Jennie Marshall



Thanks again to Jeff Gering for making our courtyard so beautiful.

All-Church Service Day

Come join in the fun! Outside and inside work, Weeding, trimming, washing.... Something for everyone! Saturday, June 5, 9:00—Noon

JUNE PICK ME UP MOMENTS compiled by Carol Pittman

- June 01 Sometimes the most important things you do each day are not even on your list! Anon
- June 02 God not only loves you very much, but He has put His hand on you for something special. 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5
- June 03 I didn't find my friends; the good Lord gave them to me. Ralph Waldo Emerson
- June 04 God puts rainbows in the clouds so that each of us---in the dreariest and most dreaded ments can see a possibility of hope. Maya Angelou
- June 05 Dear Lord, In a world of distractions, help me to focus on You. Anon
- June 06 My soul finds rest in God alone. Psalm 62:1
- June 07 you can't reach for something new if your hands are of full of yesterday's clutter. Louise Smith
- June 08 Sometimes a miracle is simply meeting a good person with a good heart. Anon
- June 09 God, show me who I can reach out to today. Steph Whittley
- June 10 Our heavenly Father can take our simple daily efforts and turn them into something miraculous. Gary E. Stevenson
- June 11 What we know matters, but who we are matters more. Brene Brown
- June 12 To pray is to let go and let God take over. Philippians 4:6-7
- June 13 Faith cannot be inherited or gained by being baptized into a church. Faith is a matter between the individual and God. Martin Luther
- June 14 The beauty of life does not depend on how happy you are, but how happy others can be because of you. Anon
- June 15 God, help me to look for the positives and dwell on them so that I can have a more contented heart. Steph Whittley
- June 16 Life is full of give and take. Give thanks and take nothing for granted. Anon
- June 17 No eyes have seen, no ear has heard and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him. 1 Corinthians 2:9
- June 18 God wants full custody, not just weekends. Anon
- June 19 Learn to be a good listener. Your ears will never get you into trouble. Anon
- June 20 The Bible is God's love letter about His Son to us. It is complete truth, and it has the answer to every question that we have as human beings about how to live. Anon
- June 21 Walk with God when you heart needs company. Turn to God when you need someone to lean on. Take Gods hand when you feel lost and alone. When no one can be there remember God is always there. You are never alone. Anon
- June 22 The Lord is near to all who call out to Him. Psalm 145:18
- June 23 Decide to be a blessing to everyone you meet today. Forgive anyone who has hurt you, and leave unresolved circumstances in Gods hands. Joyce Meyer
- June 24 Today I want you to think about all that you are instead of all that you are not. Anon
- June 25 Never compare you journey with someone elses. Your journey is your journey and not a competition. Anon
- June 26 God, help me to love others generously and graciously. Show me who to encourage today. Steph Whittley
- June 27 Commit your deeds to the Lord and your plans will succeed. Proverbs 16:3
- June 28 Don't listen with the intend to reply, but with the intent to understand. Anon
- June 29 It's OK if today wasn't your favorite.....tomorrow is a new one. Anon
- June 30 Remain calm in every situation because peace equals power. Joyce Meyer

St. Mark's Financial Update

Hello St. Mark's Family,

When it comes to writing the monthly article about the church's finances, I (Tim) have come to the conclusion that the more boring the article, the better! By that I mean, when the articles are short and kind of dull, it probably means we are doing okay financially.

So the good news is this another boring article about money.

We had \$25,900 given to St. Mark's in May – a slight increase from April. Year-to-date our giving is down about \$7,000 from 2021. Our expenses for the month again were pretty standard – nothing out of the ordinary. We spent \$26,600 to "run the church" and carry out our ministries. We continued to make payments for apportionments and our loan. We will start to see some of expenses start to rise, such as our utility bills and cleaning service bills, as we come closer to returning to normal.

Compared to our budget, we are about \$6,000 ahead of where we thought we would be. This is because we have spent less than anticipated on things like utilities, the annual conference house and staffing.

Our total money at the credit union is enough to cover our designated funds and our outstanding bills, though not much more. This isn't a bad place to be, though we do always feel better when we have a little cushion. So we are in good shape – not great shape – but good shape.

As we head into the summer and people start to travel, we encourage you to consider either mailing in your contribution or signing up for electronic giving. It helps us a lot when giving numbers are consistent from week-to-week. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. 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

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

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



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Kym Nguyen
- 6 Will Nguyen
- 7 Chris Cooper
- 8 Charlotte Tierney
- 9 Dale Shreve
- 9 Brian George
- 10 Sue Beckett
- 11 Janice Chaney
- 13 Don White
- 14 Heather McDaniel
- 16 Helen Mullen
- 20 Becky Hamblin
- 21 Rich Stracke
- 24 Tim Mislansky
- 25 Mark Hensler, Jr.
- 26 Ardean Pitman
- 26 Debbie Hill
- 27 Kristy Theiss
- 27 Wes Flannery
- 28 Don Stewart
- 29 Sue McDaniel
- 30 Terrill Broshear
- 30 Mike Fiotzpatrick

St. Mark's UMC 4601 Fairfield Ave. (513) 844-1818 Fax: (513) 844-2828 fairfieldstmarks.com

Worship Service: Sundays 9:30 am Live Streamed



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Rick and Janis Kiefer 36 years
- 10 Rick and Jennie Marshall 15 years
- 19 Dan and Judy Scofield 50 years
- 20 Greg and Joann Keith 40 years
- 20 Brodie and Kristy Theiss 12 years
- 24 Bobbie and Jennifer Rinker, Jr. 26 years
- 25 Cliff and Cheryl Klug 38 years
- 25 Tim and Maria Mullen 33 years
- 25 Bob and Judy Klingel 61 years
- 25 Rich and Suzan Stracke44 years
- 28 Eric and Michele Leyrer 13 years



Samuel Allen Saylor baptism. Parents are Terry and Natasha Saylor Also pictured is our Lay Leader, Mark Hensler And, Pastor Joe is blocking the view of Samuel's godfather, Jeremy Saylor

St. Mark's UMC Calendar

Click event for details, if any.

	n		June 2021			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 • Youth Group 6:00pm - 8:00pm @ Youth Room • Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm • Trustees 7:00pm	2 Men's Prayer Group 7:30am @ Prayer Room Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm @ Fellowship Hall Room at the Table 6:30pm	3 Small Group Bible Study 7:00pm - 9:00pm @ Choir Room Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm @ Fellowship Hall		5
6 Family Worship (nursery open) Holy Communion 9:30am - 10:30am @ Sanctuary	7	 Administrative Board 7:00pm @ Varies Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	9 Men's Prayer Group 7:30am @ Prayer Room Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm @ Fellowship Hall	10 Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm @ Fellowship Hall	11	12
13 • G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am • Worship 9:30am - 10:30am @ Sanctuary	14 • Youth Mission Week	15 • Youth Mission Week • CYFM Team 6:45pm • Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm • Finance Cmte 7:00pm	 16 Youth Mission Week Men's Prayer Group 7:30am @ Prayer Room Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm @ Fellowship Hall 	 17 Youth Mission Week Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm @ Fellowship Hall 	18 • Youth Mission Week	19
20 Father's Day Vouth Help With G.L.O.W. 9:15am - 10:45am G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am Worship 9:30am - 10:30am @ Sanctuary	21 Dessert, Documentary, Discussion all- church event 7:00pm - 8:30pm @ St. Mark's United Methodist Church Feliowship Hall	 22 SPRC 6:30pm @ location varies. Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	23 Men's Prayer Group 7:30am @ Prayer Room Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm @ Fellowship Hall		25 ss the chur	26 -ch
27 G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am Worship 9:30am - 10:30am @ Sanctuary "Taste the Bread" 10:45am	28	29 Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm	30 Men's Prayer Group 7:30am @ Prayer Room Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm @ Fellowship Hall	cale v www.fair	endar on ot vebsite at https:// fieldstmark calendar/	ır

Congratulations, Graduates



Photo on left, left to right: Corey Gross, Nicole Specht, Zach Dichtl, Mary Mislansky, Will Nguyen. Top right photo: Malakie Edmunson Bottom right photo: Katie Luken

Here is a touching photo of the late Russ Carr escorting Jean Bennett to the front door of our church. Jim Fenske submitted this snapshot. He took it around this time in 2019.

He thought I would appreciate seeing it. I do, and I think you will too.—Joe



Position Opening

POSITION OPENING: OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Pastor Joe and the SPRC regretfully accepts Brenda Smoot's decision to retire once again as St. Mark's administrative assistant. Brenda selflessly came out of retirement two years ago when we had a need for someone to help us in our transition upon Pastor Joe's appointment. We cannot thank her enough and wish her well on her retirement.

SPRC hopes to find a person to fulfill Brenda's duties, as well as to assist our treasurer in performing some basic bookkeeping tasks. We expect this to be a 20-hour per week position. A job description is available on request. Please contact Jennifer Rinker (jrinker1@aol.com) for more information.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church 4601 Fairfield Ave. Fairfield, OH 45014

SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S JUNE 2021