



SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S

AUGUST 2021

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

PASTOR JOE'S JOTS



Dear Church Family,

What a summer! We've had two Dessert & Discussions, Bible studies, and new member classes. On top of that, VBS begins this week. All of this and more, as we live in the midst of a global pandemic that doesn't seem to be ending any time soon.

According to the CDC, the Covid 19 Delta variant is spreading rapidly among vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, which is causing a rise in cases. There is so much conflicting information and it is difficult to sort out. Regardless, the CDC is recommending that we mask when indoors even if we are vaccinated.

So, what does this mean for the people of St. Mark's, particularly regarding worship? Right now, our current policy states that vaccinated individuals may worship unmasked, and unvaccinated individuals are encouraged - but not required - to mask. Children in G.L.O.W. kids' ministry and their adult leaders will continue to mask.

To say that we are weary from this is likely an understatement. At the same time, I know we want to remain safe. Personally, I feel protected because I have been vaccinated and I am in good health. However, it may be a different story for those who are unvaccinated or vaccinated but live with a weakened immune system. I am not a health expert and don't pretend to be. While the scriptures tell us that God is our help in times of trouble, the scriptures also teach us to not put God to the test. We need to use good judgment.

So, my suggestion is that you do whatever you feel is best for you. So, receive guidance from your physician. You may decide to come to worship masked or unmasked. Or, you may choose to stay home. Although we will miss seeing you, there will be no judgment either way.

I do know this: we will get through this. Programs will continue as best we can. So hang in there. Stay safe. And know that God is with us every step of the way.

Your pastor and friend,

PS: You may be reassured to know that our sanctuary is well ventilated. The HVAC system brings in a steady flow of fresh outside air, the sanctuary HVAC fans are set to run continuously, and the tall ceiling helps to disperse the air even further.

Looking ahead in worship:

Aug. 1: Holy Communion. Sermon Series on Ephesians, *Geared Up For Life*. Sermon "A Life Worthy." Eph. 4:1-6.
Aug. 8: Focus on Kids and Youth. VBS Celebration, Backpack Sunday, and more.
Aug. 15: Sermon Series on Ephesians, *Geared Up For Life*. Sermon "Giving Thanks." Eph. 5:15-20
Aug. 22: Sermon Series on Ephesians, *Geared Up For Life*. Sermon "Armored." Eph. 5:15-20
Aug. 29: Music Sunday
Sept. 5: Holy Communion. Baptism. Guest Preacher Eva Marie Wolfe.



YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

Julie Mislansky, Director of Youth Ministries

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all who brought their dirty vehicles to our car wash! In three hours we washed 17 cars and collected \$317! All the money was donated to Hamilton Living Water Ministries as a part of our summer Mission Week.

We will gather in the youth room on August 8th from 6:00- 8:00 and again on August 20th from 6:00-9:00 for a Fun Night Out. We will begin a regular fall schedule in September.



CONFIRMATION

I am excited to announce that Pastor Joe and I will be offering a confirmation class for our youth beginning on September 12th! We will meet two Sundays each month, September- May, with the following schedule:

- 3:30- 5:00 Confirmation Class
- 5:00- 6:00 Dinner offered for all confirmation students and youth group members
- 6:00- 7:30 Youth Group

We will be posting a dinner schedule and asking for volunteers to provide dinner for us on these nights! Thank you in advance for supporting us!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

August 8th will be “Blessing of the Backpacks” during Worship service. This will also be the day we pair our “prayer partners.” All adults who would like to be paired with a child, youth, or young adult will have to opportunity to be assigned one that day after church. You will be given their name, address, and birthdate. We encourage you to not only pray daily for your partner, but to remember them at special times of the year. Please consider being a part of this important ministry as we want to make sure all children and youth are paired with someone.

THANK YOU, ZACH DICHTL!

Finally, I'd like to offer a huge, heartfelt thanks to Zach Dichtl for being our co-leader the past year. Zach, you have been amazing. You immediately said yes! when I asked you to serve and you have been there every step of the way this first year. I already loved you and now the youth love you! THANK YOU. We wish you all the best as you move to Columbus and begin graduate school. You are welcome to join our youth adventures any time you are in town!!



ST. MARK'S CARES MISSIONS and OUTREACH



THANK YOU for the amazing amount of school supplies you donated for Dougie and Ray's! They will help fill backpacks for Fairfield School students. Our congregation always steps up to make this a huge success!

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS RUN4KIDS



St. Mark's has a team and we are ready to walk (or run!). The 5K is Saturday, August 14th. Team members can check in at 8:30 and the walk begins at 9:30. There is still time to join our team or donate to our team!

To join the St. Mark's UMC team, go to
<https://amplify.e-activist.com/19381/run4kids2021/myhq/group/55493>

Or, if it is easier (and it usually is with these long internet links) go to bbbsbutler.org and search for info about the Run4KIDS event, click on the register button, and search for our team name, St. Marks UMC.

Please see Lynne Schumacker, our team captain, with questions. Our goal is \$1000 and we are almost at \$500. Thanks!!

ROOM AT THE TABLE

We are excited to announce that we will be offering another session of "Dessert and Discussion"-
daytime version!

On Tuesday, August 3rd from 1:00-2:30 we will view and discuss "Through My Eyes." This documentary shows interviews of several gay and lesbian young adults as they discuss growing up in the church, coming out to their families and churches, and the reactions they encountered. Julie Mislansky will facilitate this discussion.

"An Act of Love" will be shown on Tuesday, August 17 from 10:00- noon. This film follows the story of Rev. Frank Schaeffer, a UMC pastor in Pennsylvania who presided over the same-sex marriage of his son. He was brought to trial by the United Methodist Church and stripped of his ordination credentials. Jennie Marshall will lead this discussion.

Both events provide for great discussion to guide us as St. Marks considers becoming a Reconciling Church. We are offering these daytime events for anyone who was not able to come to the evening sessions. Everyone is invited, no matter where your thoughts land on this matter. These events offer a time for graceful, honest conversation, a time to share your concerns, your support, and your questions. The members of the Room at the Table sincerely invite all to join us and be a part of the conversation.



St. Mark's Family Ministries



VBS August 1-5, 6:30 - 8:15

Everyone is welcome!



August 8th - Worship with us for backpack and school blessings. Whether you are a student, school staff or a parent, we want to cover you in prayer as you begin a new school year.

Taste The Bread - Sept 26th



3rd Grade Bible Sunday - October 17th



Trunk or Treat - October 24th

St. Mark's Children's Ministry
G.L.O.W.

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

Meet Your New Administrative Assistant

On Sunday, July 25th, we recognized and thanked Brenda Smoot for coming out of retirement to serve as our Admin. Assistant for the past three years. She has been a blessing.

Now, the SPRC is pleased to introduce our new Administrative Assistant, Ms. Lyn Bucalo. Lyn's first day was Monday, July 19. For the past two weeks, she has been working hard to get organized in her office and to earn all of the many intricacies of her job.

To help you to get acquainted with Lyn, Joe asked her to offer a few words of introduction and tell us a little about herself. So, here goes:



I was born and raised in Ohio, working very hard most of my life, beginning with helping my father in his business traveling throughout Ohio to Carnivals & Festivals selling balloons and birdie whistles, perhaps that's why I love birds so much, LOL. My parents encouraged me to find my own life path, love what I do, be appreciative as well as be creative in everything I do. Later in life, I started my own small jewelry business designing repurposed fashion jewelry and creating it into 'wearable works of art' that I currently sell at a couple local boutiques and online. My jewelry business has brought me to travel across the United States as well as internationally having my jewelry on models walking down runways and in stunning photoshoots using my jewelry designs.

Not limiting myself to just designing jewelry, I also love to create many pieces of art through paintings, drawings, mixed media projects, crafting, working with florals and more. From this, I began working part-time, at Michael's Craft Store teaching numerous adult classes for more than 5 years. You can now find me, one day a week, keeping the jewelry department refreshed and looking sparkly for the customers.

Blessings are abundant in my life as I have been fortunate to find a good man and have spent 15 years with and counting. My fiancé Bob Ratliff, has been very supportive and has encouraged me throughout my life treks. We have a delightful mini Schnauzer named, Bling. She loves to wear my jewelry creations too and is great about not eating them. I am also very fortunate to have three beautiful grown children and one grandchild. Being a first time grandma is most wonderful! One moment you are just a mother and the next moment you are all-wise and prehistoric.

With much gratefulness, I look forward to serving God through assisting St. Mark's UMC Members and the community in my new role here as Administrative Assistant. Blessings!

Lyn's hours will be 9:30-Noon and 1:00-3:00 pm, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, excluding holidays (On Tuesdays you can find her hard at work at Michael's.)

If you have the opportunity, stop in and say "Hi!"



MUSIC MINISTRY

Chris Beiser - Director of Music

Hello everyone! I hope you're all enjoying the summer, but fall is approaching and it's time to gear up for some Music Ministry groups to begin rehearsing. Let me say right off that I want all music participants to feel safe and comfortable with returning to the chancel choir and/or bell choir. SO with that in mind I'm proposing a rehearsal/singing plan for the early fall that will hopefully accomplish just that!

I would like to begin by meeting on Sunday mornings at 8:30 to rehearse a song for that same Sunday morning. I will choose anthems we have sung before and each will be one we can easily go through from 8:30 -9 am, and be able to sing. I want to begin this on Sunday September 12 @ 8:30 am.

A detail that still needs to be worked out is...sing in the choir loft every other chair...come up from congregation to the steps, sing, and return to seats (like we do for Christmas Eve), or seated in the choir loft as we've always done. The ongoing COVID issues will have an effect on this decision. Again everyone being comfortable is important!

I want to continue this process of rehearse/sing on Sunday mornings for September 12, 19, 26, October 3, and 10. Choir rehearsals would resume on Wednesday October 13 from 7:30-9. At that time we can assess where we are with COVID restrictions and how it is effecting our arrangement for rehearsing and Sunday morning singing. If all is going well my plan would be to begin a Christmas cantata that would be presented mid-December, along with our weekly anthem selections.

The choir is missed and getting you all back together will be a huge blessing to everyone...BUT...I want us to come together with small steps first, then building onto that foundation as the fall progresses. Anyone who would like to join the choir, this would be a great time because we will only be focusing on one song at a time for several weeks. This is a chance for everyone, returning or new, to get those voices back into shape again!

Please don't hesitate to talk, call, text, Facebook message, or email me with thoughts, concerns, or questions.



Get your LaComedia Dinner Theater tickets for
A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder
Featuring Christopher Beiser and Hannah Hensler.
August 19-September 19.



Penniless Monty Navarro finds out he is 9th in succession to the D'Ysquith family fortune, so instead of taking the chance to outlive all of them he sets out on a plan to off each one without getting caught. But murder and fortune isn't all that's on Monty's mind, there is also love. This musical comedy is filled with wonderful music, lots of laughs, and one actor playing all the members of the D'Ysquith family.

Chris Beiser will be playing the eight family members and Hannah Hensler will be playing Phoebe, Monty's beautiful love interest! Call LaComedia Dinner Theater for tickets, 1-937-746-4554.

AUGUST PICK ME UP MOMENTS

compiled by Carol Pittman

- Aug 01, 2021 When we put God first, all other things fall into their proper place. Ezra Taft Benson
- Aug 02, 2021 Don't think of the things you didn't get after praying. Think of the countless blessings God gave you without asking. Anon
- Aug 03, 2021 If you don't like the road you're walking, start paving another one. Dolly Parton
- Aug 04, 2021 What God knows about me is more important than what others think about me. Anon
- Aug 05, 2021 As we arise each morning let us determine to respond with more love and kindness to whatever might come our way. Thomas S. Monson
- Aug 06, 2021 Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap it if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9
- Aug 07, 2021 Often we set out to make a difference in the lives of others only to discover we have made a difference in our own. Ellie Brown-Hale
- Aug 08, 2021 God, show me who I can encourage today. Give me eyes to notice. Steph Whitley
- Aug 09, 2021 If we pray, we will believe. If we believe, we will love. If we love, we will serve. Anon
- Aug 10, 2021 Jesus is the key to heaven, faith unlocks the door. Anon
- Aug 11, 2021 Blessed is he who trusts the Lord. Proverbs 16:20
- Aug 12, 2021 God made you different so you could make a difference. Anon
- Aug 13, 2021 I don't need everyone to hear me say I'm a Christian, but I need everyone to see Christ in me. Anon
- Aug 14, 2021 Be there for others, but never leave yourself behind. Dodinsky
- Aug 15, 2021 There is nothing more beautiful that someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others. Mandy Hale
- Aug 16, 2021 God, help me to make prayer a priority, just like Jesus. Lori Merrill
- Aug 17, 2021 God's grace is not an excuse to sin, but rather a reason to love and serve Him more fully. Anon
- Aug 18, 2021 May I quiet my words and listen. May I calm my thoughts and be. May I soften my heart and open. May I still my soul and receive. Mary Davis
- Aug 19, 2021 Be patient. God isn't finished with you yet. Philippians
- Aug 20, 2021 God is so big He can cover the whole world with His love and so small He can curl up inside your heart. June Masters Bacher
- Aug 21, 2021 Nothing will disrupt your peace faster than taking your eyes off God. Anon
- Aug 22, 2021 What we know matters, but who we are matters more. Brene Brown
- Aug 23, 2021 Those who generously sow love to other people can expect to harvest generous love. Boyd Bailey
- Aug 24, 2021 If we do one random act of kindness daily, we just might set the world in the right direction. Martin Kornfield
- Aug 25, 2021 Everything done in the world is done by hope. Martin Luther
- Aug 26, 2021 When you walk with God, the impossible becomes possible. Anon
- Aug 27, 2021 Friends are God's way of taking care of us. Anon
- Aug 28, 2021 Let the peace of Christ rule your hearts. Colossians 3:15
- Aug 29, 2021 What God intended for you goes far beyond anything you can imagine. Never lose hope and hang on to God's hand. Oprah Winfrey
- Aug 30, 2021 If there's nothing you can do about it, then focus on other things and leave it to God. Anon
- Aug 31, 2021 God uses ordinary people to carry out his extraordinary plan. Anon

GARDEN UPDATE

On Sunday, July 29, 2018 I (Joe) shared a vision of converting our back lot into a garden, with the harvest going primarily to benefit our local food pantries. To illustrate, I showed a couple of slides. One was of our back lot as it appeared at that time. The other slide was the same picture, but this time “photoshopped” to show how the lot might appear as a garden. I remember being pretty proud of my “special effects skills.”

Back Lot, 2018



Same Backlot in 2018 with a “photoshopped garden.”



Isn't it cool when a vision becomes reality?

Here's the same lot today. This time, no need for special effects



Here's a view from the second floor of the parsonage.



Linda and I have been enjoying the produce from the garden I planted. Plus, we've been donating all that we can't consume to food pantries in Fairfield and Springdale. Pretty soon, the beans and corn our team from St. Mark's planted will be ripe for harvest. The pumpkins and gourds should be ready by September or October. So far, it looks like our harvest will be abundant!

When the time comes to pick beans and corn, I will get the word out to you. Everyone will be invited to help. This will be an opportunity for parents and grandparents to teach their kids where their food comes from. It will be an opportunity to marvel and give thanks for God's beautiful creation. It will be a time of good fellowship and the wonderful feeling that comes from doing something good.

Next time you are at church, make sure to have a look at God's Handiwork. It is something to behold!

August Birthdays and Anniversaries



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



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/1 Dianne Aiken
8/1 Chelsey Cavender
8/2 Pat Belarski
8/2 Will Knau - 17
8/2 Peg Wyatt
8/3 Lois Hill
8/4 Maddie Hensler
8/6 Cherie Kuertz
8/9 Dollie Gallihugh
8/10 Lora Gugala
8/10 Janis Kiefer
8/10 Oaklie Muse - 5
8/12 Donna Hughes
8/12 Carl Phillippo
8/12 Sullivan Saylor - 6
8/12 Nancy Starkie
8/14 Dick Davis
8/14 Corey Gross
8/15 Jenn Specht - 17
8/16 Jeff Gering
8/18 Joan Streckfus
8/19 Bill Schumacker
8/22 Nicole Specht
8/24 Frieda Hawkins
8/25 Olivia Edmundson - 15
8/25 Max Moser
8/26 Willa Ramsey
8/27 Debbie Bryant
8/30 Shelby Cavender
8/30 Joey Specht
8/31 Betty Stover

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/11 Devin & Gale Goodman 30
8/14 Randy & Nancy Starkie 50
8/15 James & Melinda Gross 23
8/18 Joe & Linda Payne 37
8/24 Bob & Becky Mendenhall 53
8/28 Mike & Kathy Fitzpatrick 50

"THANK YOU"

Thank you for the kind words,
the concerns and the flowers
after the passing of my mother.
-Jenni Hensler

St. Mark's UMC Calendar

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO Youth Group • Family Worship (nursery open) Holy Communion. No G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am • VBS - Rocky Railway 6:30pm - 8:15pm 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crafters Group 10:00am • VBS - Rocky Railway 6:30pm - 8:15pm 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room at the Table event- Through Our Eyes 1:00pm - 2:30pm • VBS - Rocky Railway 6:30pm - 8:15pm • Trustees Parking Lot 9:00pm 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's Prayer Group 7:30am • Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm • VBS - Rocky Railway 6:30pm - 8:15pm 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VBS - Rocky Railway 6:30pm - 8:15pm • Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Yard Sale • Pastor Joe Away
<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away • Worship: VBS Celebration / Backpack Sunday. No G.L.O.W. today. 9:30am - 10:30am • Youth Group 6:00pm - 8:00pm 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away • Crafters Group 10:00am • Room at the Table 6:30pm 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away • Administrative Board 7:00pm • Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away • Men's Prayer Group 7:30am • Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away • Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Brothers Big Sisters Walk/Run 8:30am - 12:00pm
<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am • Worship 9:30am - 10:30am 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crafters Group 10:00am 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room at the Table event- An Act of Love 10:00am - 12:00pm • Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's Prayer Group 7:30am • Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Marks Cares 6:30pm - 8:00pm • Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Group Fun Night 6:00pm - 9:00pm 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diana Griffith Memorial Service 1:00pm
<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am • Worship 9:30am - 10:30am 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crafters Group 10:00am 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPRC 6:30pm • Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away • Men's Prayer Group 7:30am • Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away • Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away
<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away • G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am • Worship 9:30am - 10:30am 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away • Crafters Group 10:00am 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Joe Away • Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 				

Access the church calendar on our website at <https://www.fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar/>

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

SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S JULY 2021



Fall Foliage Tour 2021

We are hoping to return to Hocking Hills this Fall! If this becomes a reality, we will charter a bus as we did in 2019. We will visit Ash Cave, eat at the Olde Dutch Restaurant, and more.

This day-trip is in the preliminary planning stage, including determining fees and complete itinerary. Of course, a lot depends on the Covid 19 situation.

We hope to have a fee and deposit determined soon.

Look for more details in your church worship bulletin.

St. Mark's Staff

Pastor, Rev. Joseph M. Payne -
Joe's cell #614-531-2373

Pastor Emeritus, Bob Klingel

Admin. Assistant, Lyn Bucalo

Director of Music, Chris Beiser

Organist, Sue Combs

Director of Children & Family Ministries, Peggy Smith

Director of Youth Ministries, Julie Mislansky

Church Office Hours :

Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday
9:30 - Noon, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Tuesday - Office Closed

(513) 844-1818
Fax: (513) 844-2828
fairfieldstmarks.com

Worship Service:
Sundays 9:30 am