

SPirit OF ST. MARK'S

OCTOBER 2021

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



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." Matthew 25:35a
"You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That is how prayer works." —Pope Francis
Prayer is where the action is." —John Wesley
"If you cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one." —Mother Teresa

Dear St. Mark's family,

October greetings! I want to share with you about a new ministry opportunity that is about to be birthed here at St. Mark's, a ministry that could offer one more way to help feed the hungry in our community.

Of course, we are already doing so much! We are in partnership with Serve City, the Fairfield Food Pantry, the Broken Bus Ministry, Shared Harvest, and other ministries. We provide dollars, food, and time. Plus, this year our garden yielded hundreds of pounds of fresh produce for the Fairfield Food Pantry and the SOUL Pantry in Springdale.

We are doing good work!

And yet, with all of this good work, there are still those who "fall through the cracks." There are the working poor, whose hours at work prevent them from making it to our food pantries during their limited hours of operation. There are folks who suffer from PTSD, who find it unbearable to go into strange places and talk to people. There are those who are ashamed of having to ask for help. These are just three challenges I can think of. I'm sure there are others.

This is why I am excited about our new ministry opportunity called the "Little Free Pantry". Our Children and Family Ministry Team became inspired by this worldwide movement where churches and other organizations are erecting small boxes filled with nonperishable food in locations where families can have access to them 24 hours a day. They can come and receive food to "get them by," without any fear or shame. They can take what they need. At the same time, our church families and others in the community can help to keep the box stocked with food that they donate themselves. This is a ministry our children will see. And when they see, they will learn to "give to the least of these," as Jesus teaches us. Whether folks are giving or receiving, all will be blessed.

Thousands of these "Little Free Pantries" are up and running here in this country and globe. And, St. Mark's will soon be installing one of our own on our property within easy and safe access for our community. Of course, there is a real possibility that a few will take advantage. They could wipe out our supplies. There is always that. People can take advantage of just about any ministry. But, why let a few spoil it for all? This shouldn't keep us from doing what we can for those who truly need it.

I am proud of our Children and Family Ministry for becoming inspired to do this good work. The box is already nearing completion and will be installed soon. We can be in prayer for those who will benefit from this hand up.

Blessings in Christ,

Looking ahead:

October 3: "Let the Little Children Come" Mark 10:2-16
October 10: "Taking the Last Step" Mark 10:17-31
October 17: "The Abundant Lifestyle" Mark 10:35-45
October 24: "Surviving Seeing" Mark 10:46-52
October 31: "All Saints Sunday"



YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

JULIE MISLANSKY, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

Youth Group is back in full swing, meeting on two Sunday afternoons a month for confirmation class, dinner together, and ending the night with youth group. Our “Fun Night Out” in September was a night at Neiderman’s Farm, complete with a bonfire, hot dogs and s’mores, a trip through the corn maze, and pumpkin picking. We will be selling lawn signs with encouraging messages for our fall mission project to spread positivity and mental health awareness. See our article (below) for more information.



We will continue with our confirmation lessons on October 3 and 24th, along with a visit to another church in October to experience other faith services.

Our October “Fun Night Out” will be a night of mini-golf on October 22.

Thank you to those who signed up to provide our youth dinner on Sundays! We



YOUTH GROUP MISSION PROJECT

Our youth group will be doing their part to support NAMI of Butler County. To help spread mental health awareness and suicide prevention, we will be selling ‘Encouraging lawn signs.’ These signs display simple, positive messages, like “You Matter,” “Don’t Give Up,” and “One Day at a Time.” You are asked to simply place them in your yard. This “Don’t Give Up” movement was started in 2017 by an Oregon mom in response to the high suicide rate in her community. She has distributed signs in all 50 states and 26 countries. The stories of people whose lives have been touched just by seeing the message at a vulnerable time in their life has been remarkable. Here is one testimony:

Quote: “I just had a woman knock on my door. She began to cry and thank me for the signs in my yard. She lives up the road and said her son had attempted suicide and these signs were in the yard the day they came home from the hospital. She drives by every day and for her, her son, and her daughter the reminder is profound.”

The youth will be in the Narthex before and after service on Sundays until we sell out! Signs are \$10 and all proceeds will be donated to our St. Mark’s NAMI Walk team.



ST. MARK'S CARES MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

We were able to have a group volunteer at Shared Harvest Foodbank for the first time since before Covid!

Thank you to the following for representing St. Mark's!
Kneeling: Dave Brockfield, Debbie Bryant, Holly Craig
Standing: Donna Armstrong, Tonya Leguina, Pat Fassnacht, Sue Luken, Gay Kubik, Marty Kubik



We have another opportunity to serve on the Broken Bus on Saturday, October 16th. We can take up to three riders and we need donations of food. A sign up will be on the narthex bulletin board or see Tari Randall if you are interested

We will be having our annual coat drive in October! We will be collecting new or gently used coats, jackets, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, and scarves- men, women, and/or children. Donations will be shared with The Broken Bus, Serve City, and Hope's Closet. Donation bins will be in the narthex all month.



The Caring Closet

Thank you to all who donated toiletries for The Caring Closet!
All donations will help students in need in the Hamilton Schools.

St. Mark's has a team walking the 5K at the NAMI Walk, supporting NAMI of Butler County. The walk will begin at the Fitton Center for Creative Arts in Hamilton, with arrival time of 9:00, on Saturday, October 9. **The Ruth Circle Women's Group has been a faithful sponsor of this walk for ten years!**



Butler County

This is an organization that is very close to the hearts of many at St. Mark's. Please consider joining our team or making a donation to our team. Contact Tari Randall with questions or if you'd like to join, or follow this link to our team page.

<https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=46000>

ST. MARK'S FAMILY MINISTRIES

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

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



Bible Sunday **October 17th**

If you have a student that is in third grade or older that has not received their Bible from St. Mark's UMC, contact Peggy Smith at p.smith@fairfieldstmarks.com

Fall Fest—Trunk or Treat **October 24th, 4:00—6:00pm**

Fall Fest Trunk or Treat is happening and everyone is invited to be part of the fun! Decorated vehicles will be parked in every other space in our parking lot and guests will drive through parade style. All candy will be pre-bagged and handed out as cars exit the parking lot. We will be accepting candy donations until October 24th.



Save the Date—Advent Celebration **November 28th**

We will come together to celebrate the beginning of the Advent season

ST. MARK'S FINANCIAL UPDATE

Hello St. Mark's Family,

July was a typical financial month for the church. Total giving was about \$25,500 – about \$1,000 less than in July. Year-to-date we have received \$207,000 which is down about 10% from last year.

We spent \$24,300 during the month of August and year-to-date, our expenses have been \$204,000 almost the same amount in 2020. We continue to handle all our expenses and keep them in check.

So what does your giving do for St. Mark's?

- 🍃 \$110,000 has been used to pay salaries and benefits for our staff. This includes the salaries for our wonderful music program, our vibrant youth ministry program and our loving children's services program. We are blessed to have a great group of people dedicated to the mission and the members of St. Mark's.
- 🍃 \$40,000 has been spent for facility use and upkeep. This includes utilities, grass cutting/snow removal and cleaning services. This number includes about \$5,000 this year for various repairs.
- 🍃 \$25,000 has been spent for apportionments. We have faithfully made our apportionments each month and are on our way to the fourth consecutive year of 100% payment of apportionments. This amount is down over \$3,000 from the prior year as the district and the conference both trimmed their budgets and passed the savings along to local churches.
- 🍃 \$12,000 has been spent to pay off our line of credit and pay down the debt on the building. Today we have just over \$49,000 left on our loan.
- 🍃 \$7,500 has been given to organizations we support through St. Mark's Cares. These funds all come from your designated giving!
- 🍃 \$6,000 has been spent related to computers and software and much of this has been to allow us to stream service to those who watch from home.
- 🍃 \$5,000 has been spent for our youth and our children's ministry including vacation bible school. Much of this money has come from designated funds so the spend did not come out of the general fund.

So you can hopefully see that your gifts to St. Mark's make a difference.

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



MUSIC MINISTRY

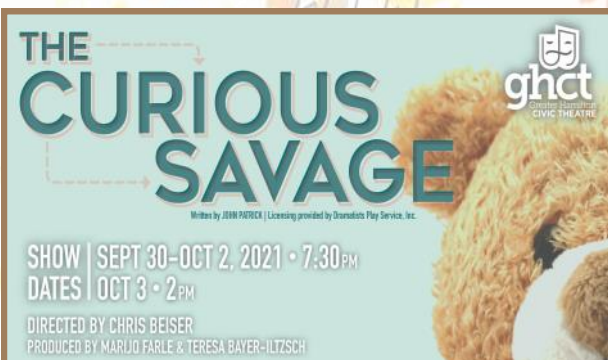
CHRIS BEISER—DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The fall season brings festivals, football, cooler evenings, and beautiful changes in the colors of the leaves. Fall typically brings on the start of the music ministry groups at St. Mark's, but unfortunately that is not possible at this time. I had wanted to start the choir meeting on Sunday mornings to rehearse a song that was familiar to us. After first going back and forth with myself, then talking with Pastor Joe, the decision was made to hold off on beginning for a while longer. I am disappointed that this was necessary, but the safety and health of the choir is important. So we all wait a little longer for their return. My goal is still to provide special music selections each Sunday. That is where I need anyone who would like to do a vocal or instrumental special to let me know. The song can be recorded and played during the service, or you can present the song in person.

As we head into the holiday season with Thanksgiving and Advent coming very soon, I will be thinking of ways to make music a special part of those services. I'll have two plans...Plan A with choir back in place, and Plan B musical presentations with no choir. Whichever happens, I will make it a goal that it will be God honoring and prepares your heart and mind for those special events in our church year.

As a congregation, we are in constant prayer that we will soon see the breakthrough of getting back to "normal". It seems like everything is moving in the right direction then WHAM we are heading back the wrong way! I miss the choir family so much and I know you do too, we will get there, slowly we will get there.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and support during my latest performing gig, A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder at LaComedia Dinner Theater. Playing 8 parts in one production was a challenge but very rewarding as an actor. I'm thrilled to have been given the opportunity to take on the role, and so appreciative to all of you who came and saw the show.



I wanted to let you know that Sue Combs will be playing the lead role in the first production of Greater Hamilton Civic Theater's 2021-2022 season, The Curious Savage. Sue plays Ethel Savage a widow whose husband has left her \$10 million dollars. She intends to give the fortune away to people who wish to pursue their dreams. Her step-children strongly object so they put her in an institution to find her mentally unstable to control her own affairs. While in the institution Mrs. Savage meets some delightful patients that make you question who are the crazy people...they could very well be the ones outside not in!

Call 513-737-PLAY, go online at ghctplay@gmail.com, or purchase tickets at the door. Performances are Thursday September 30, Friday October 1, and Saturday October 2 @ 7:30, and Sunday October 3 @ 2:00. Come support live theater and Sue!

OCTOBER PICK ME UP MOMENTS

COMPILED BY CAROL PITTMAN

- Oct. 01, 2021 My To-do-list for today: Count my blessings; Practice kindness; Let go of what I can't control; Listen to my heart; Be productive yet calm; Just breathe.—Anon
- Oct. 02, 2021 Some things just fill your heart without trying.—Anon
- Oct. 03, 2021 I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.—Psalm 16:8
- Oct. 04, 2021 Being honest may not get you many friends, but it will get you the right ones.—John Lennon
- Oct. 05, 2021 The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ.—Philippians 4:7
- Oct. 06, 2021 No matter how old your other parts.....you can always be young at heart!—Jane Lee Logan
- Oct. 07, 2021 Your words have power, use them wisely.—Matthew 12:37
- Oct. 08, 2021 When you take time with God and listen to His voice, He renews your strength and enables you to handle life. — Joyce Meyer
- Oct. 09, 2021 We can't always see where the road leads but God promises there's something better ahead, we just have to trust Him.—Psalm 56:3
- Oct. 10, 2021 Sometimes when we get overwhelmed, we forget how big God is.—A.W. Tozer
- Oct. 11, 2021 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.—Romans 15:4
- Oct. 12, 2021 The more we can build a culture of understanding and empathy, the more trust grows.—Bill Ibsen
- Oct. 13, 2021 Lord teach me what I cannot see.—Job 34:32
- Oct. 14, 2021 God will tell us the way to go, but then we have to do the walking.—Anon
- Oct. 15, 2021 Life is about taking chances, trusting your feelings, finding happiness, appreciating memories and learning from the past.—Atul Purohit
- Oct. 16, 2021 A satisfied life is better than a successful life. Because our success is measured by others, but our satisfaction is measured by our own soul, mind and heart.—Anon
- Oct. 17, 2021 Being a Christian demands constant progression not perfection.—Anon
- Oct. 18, 2021 As for God, His way is perfect: The Lord's word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in Him.— 2 Samuel 22:31
- Oct. 19, 2021 I'm an imperfect person loved by a perfect God.—Anon
- Oct. 20, 2021 Hope lives around every corner, behind every cloud, inside every failure. Believe in hope. Look for it and you will find it when you need it most.—Kathy Davis
- Oct. 21, 2021 Ask yourself what is really important; and then have the wisdom and courage to build your life around your answer.—Lee Jampolsky
- Oct. 22, 2021 Listen in silence because if your heart is full of other things you cannot hear the voice of God.—Mother Teresa
- Oct. 23, 2021 I have too many flaws to be perfect, but I have too many blessings to be ungrateful.—Zig Ziglar
- Oct. 24, 2021 Don't wait for things to get better. Life will always be complicated. Learn to be happy right now, otherwise, You will run out of time.—Anon
- Oct. 25, 2021 Never ignore a nudge or whisper from God.—Anon
- Oct. 26, 2021 Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love.—Therese of Lisieux
- Oct. 27, 2021 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.—1 John 3:1
- Oct. 28, 2021 Peace begins with a smile.—Mother Teresa
- Oct. 29, 2021 Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.—2 Corinthians 1:3-4
- Oct. 30, 2021 Having God in your boat doesn't mean that you'll not face any storms. It means that no storm can sink your boat! Walk in faith and you never walk alone.—Anon
- Oct. 31, 2021 God doesn't want something from us. He simply wants us.—C.S. Lewis

Poem by Linda Payne

Sometimes I've felt like sunflower's drooping head
brought low by summer's cruel and callous drought.
The energy is slowly drained and bled,
the life-force unrelentingly burned out.
Then God sends loving people to this place
to ease my parched and thirsty soul with grace.
Compassion, like a gentle falling rain,
provides a balm to ease away the strain.



I will bless them with showers of rain when they need it. Ezekiel 34: 26b

Looking out at the once lush and thriving garden, I'm saddened to see the sunflowers drooping disconsolately. They bring to mind the times I have felt like them: dried up, sagging, burned out. But I am also reminded of the love of others who act as the hands and heart of God; who bring refreshment, healing, and kindness to soothe and relieve.
*Lord, make us aware of those "drooping" souls in need of loving-kindness.
Let us be like a gentle rain in their times of drought. Amen*

OCTOBER—LITURGIST CLASSES

Linda Payne will be leading a class for anyone interested in becoming a liturgist. There will be three Sunday sessions: October 10th, 17th, 24th. The classes will be held in the sanctuary after church at 10:45am
Session 1: Linda shares her philosophy and walks participants through her preparation process
Session 2 & 3: Participants are assigned scriptures to prepare and present to the class.
Look forward to seeing you there!



RUTH'S CIRCLE, October 15th at 1pm

Ruth Circle is meeting in Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 15 at 1pm. Ruth Circle is open to ALL women of the church and we would love to have you join us. Please contact Pam Guynes at (513)-779-9162 or Pamguynes2@gmail.com or Charlene Miller at (513)-844-6793 or chardarmiller@gmail.com for any questions.



Thank you so much to everyone for calling and sending cards during the loss of my brother. Also, thank you to Pastor Joe for his visit and prayer. It all has meant a lot to me!

-Ruth Ritenbaugh



ROOM AT THE TABLE

Our group has been having graceful conversations, sharing and listening, and helping to facilitate discussion around the idea of St. Mark's becoming a Reconciling Ministry. Another positive, helpful way to be in this journey together is to share our stories. Stories of where we are, where we've been, how we've changed in our thinking, and/or personal experiences that have shaped our thoughts. Members of our committee will be sharing their stories at future events. We have also asked others to share their stories. Here is one story:

"The faithful and inclusive class was very informative for me. I had never studied the "sexual passages" of the Bible and it was interesting to see exactly how the verses can be interpreted. I have many gay friends from college and never thought exactly how they feel being fellow Christians. The personal perspectives from the people that talked on the films was eye opening. It helped me look at a different viewpoint and understand the things associated with the LGBT community." - Lynne Schumacker

If you'd like to share a story or testimony, please let anyone in our group know. It can be done in written form, spoken in person during a Room at the Table event, during a worship service, or we can video your message to be shown.

Our next "Dessert and Discussion" will be on Thursday, October 21st at 6:30PM and the following Wednesday, October 27th at 10:00AM. We will view a film or documentary together (TBA) and will continue with our conversation around the reconciling journey. As always, EVERYONE is invited and encouraged to attend. It is only through honest discussion and sharing our stories that we can make this decision together. Everyone's input is needed and valued. We all need to share our excitement and possible concerns about St. Mark's becoming a Reconciling Ministry. Call the church office to register or indicate on the back of the Sunday welcome card that you will be attending. Thank you!!

Our team members are: Tim and Julie Mislansky, Peggy and John Smith, Charlotte Tierney, Sue Luken, Alex and Kyle Robinson, Jennie Marshall, Debbie Hill, Lois Hill, Pam Brockfield, Kathleen Lang, Bob Hamp, Julie Dichtl, Zach Dichtl, and Pastor Joe.

Here is a link to the Reconciling Ministries Network website for more information.

<https://rmnetwork.org/>

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/01 Cheryl Klug
10/01 Shannon Knau
10/02 Sam Davis
10/03 Jack Nguyen
10/03 Richard Shaw
10/03 Linda Thomas
10/04 Rich Turner
10/05 Gale Goodman
10/09 Sheila Boggs
10/09 Roy Brown
10/09 Don Menke
10/11 Allison Balchunas
10/11 Trey Batt
10/11 Bob Netherland
10/15 Sue Mullen
10/16 Heather Chambers
10/16 Hugh Guynes
10/17 Don Ault
10/17 Larry Creach
10/17 Tonya Leguina
10/20 Anne Hennen
10/21 Joe Mislansky
10/22 Jenni Hensler
10/23 Danny Thomas
10/25 Tim Dutey
10/25 Eleanor McCollum
10/25 Ben McDaniel — 6
10/27 Marty Kubik
10/29 Alan Batt
10/30 Maxine Craig
10/30 John Smith

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/05 Wade & Nancy Lewis	60
10/11 Gil & Penny Dole	13
10/14 Bob & Shannon Knau	21
10/15 Kyle & Alex Robinson	10
10/17 Steve & Peggy Woods	19
10/19 Rick & Terrill Broshear	53
10/23 Brian & Marla George	22



St. Mark's UMC Calendar

October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Worship (nursery open) Holy Communion. No G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am Faithful and Inclusive Class 10:45am - 12:15pm Confirmation Class 3:30pm - 5:00pm Dinner for youth 5:00pm - 6:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm - 7:30pm 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crafters Group 10:00am 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CYFM Team 6:45pm Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm Trustees 7:00pm 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Prayer Group 7:30am Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small group Bible study 7:00pm - 9:00pm Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm 	8	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Butler County NAMI Walk 8:00am - 9:00am
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am Faithful and Inclusive Class 10:45am - 12:15pm 	11 Columbus Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crafters Group 10:00am 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Board 7:00pm Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Prayer Group 7:30am Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurture & Care Cmte 11:00am - 12:00pm Ruth's Circle 1:00pm - 2:00pm 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broken Bus Serve 9:30am - 2:00pm
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am Faithful and Inclusive Class 10:45am - 12:15pm 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crafters Group 10:00am 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Prayer Group 7:30am Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Fun Night Out 6:00pm - 9:00pm 	23
24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am Faithful and Inclusive Class 10:45am - 12:45pm FALL FEST 4:00pm - 6:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm - 7:30pm 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crafters Group 10:00am 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPRC 6:30pm Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Prayer Group 7:30am Bible Study 6:30pm - 7:30pm 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm 	29	30
31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am 						



It's Fall 4'all!

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 OCT. 2021

FALL FEST—TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 24TH, 4:00—6:00PM

(SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS)



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