

SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S

The Mission of St. Mark's United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world...a world of justice, love and peace filled with people growing in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

April 2022



















Thank You...



Geraldine Fender
(nee Sandlin)

August 28, 1930- February 9, 2022

The tomb was empty! The angel said, "He is not here: for He is RISEN"

—Matthew 28:6

Jesus Christ is alive again!
Because of Him,
we will all be resurrected too!



We thank you for all the love and support you have given our family during this difficult time.

Dear St. Mark's Family, Thank you for the lovely

planter, prayers, and cards in

the passing of my Mom.

All were deeply appreciated.

—Charlotte Tierney

Dear Church Family,

Again, I am thinking of my Church Family for their visits, prayers, cards, gifts, and phone calls. You have provide me strength and courage in dealing with the results of this last fall. This one has been the most serious and I am still dealing with some issues. The Lord has blessed me with family, friends, and His love and mercy to keep me hopeful and strong through this and also excellent medical care.

God bless each and everyone!
Love,
Iris Jones



Big Brother Big Sister Plaque

We are so pleased to announce that St. Mark's UMC was named the 2021 "Friend of the Agency" by the Big Brother Big Sisters of Butler County! What an honor! We were chosen for our faithful support over the past few years. We have had a team at their past two 5K's, have supported them financially and through donation drives, and have "adopted a family" at Christmas for the past two years.

We were honored at their annual dinner on March 1st. A group from St. Mark's was there to represent and accept the award.

Thank you, BBBS!



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOE



Dear Church Family,

Happy April! With the arrival of spring comes signs of new life. New life can be seen in the emergence of spring flowers, the greening of grass and buds on our trees. Birds are building their nests. Right now, a pair of robins are busy attempting to build a nest right outside the parsonage kitchen door. I admit they are making a mess. But that's how life is. It can be messy.

For Christians, new life is experienced especially at Easter.

Easter, the celebration of Resurrection and new life, is a joyous time, and I look forward to it. But it is also a messy time, at least it is for me.

Since the death of our son on the day after Easter three years ago, this day of Resurrection has not been the same as it was before. To this day, I continue to sort out my emotions as a grieving father and as a person of faith. I will probably spend the rest of my life doing so. Certainly, the loss of life in my family around this holiday has changed my experience of Easter.



As I continue to reflect, I believe my understanding of Resurrection is deepening. Yes, I continue to grieve, and always will. At the same time, I am beginning to understand that I can also experience deep joy in knowing my savior lives. I am learning how to experience joy, even as I grieve.

Yes, life is at times far messier than the mess any robin can leave. But, that's how life is. Perhaps you are going through a difficult time right now. Perhaps calling it "difficult" is an understatement. I want you to know that you are not alone. The resurrection of Christ is especially for people like you and me.

So, I hope to celebrate, truly celebrate, this Holy Week. I look forward to experiencing this wonderful, deeply joyous time with you.

Your pastor and friend, Joe

Looking Ahead in Worship

Sundays we continue our Worship Series, "Good Enough" April 3 – Holy Communion – Message, "We Are Fragile" John 12:1-8 April 10 – Palm/Passion Sunday – Message, "You Are a Group Project" Luke 19:28-40 HOLY WEEK

- On Maundy Thursday (April 14) at First Baptist Church of Hamilton, our choir will join with the choir of First Baptist in singing a cantata. That's right, our choir is returning!
- On Good Friday (April 15), St. Mark's will hold a Tenebrae service (Service of Darkness). We will relive the drama of the Passion of the Christ through the reading of scripture, singing of hymns and songs, and the gradual extinguishing of candles.
- On Easter, April 17, we celebrate the Resurrection! To help us celebrate in a big way, our choir is returning to the chancel for the first time in over two years.



YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY JULIE MISLANSKY

The confirmation class has been busy during the month of March working our way through the confirmation curriculum. Our topics we discussed this month were Communion, Worship, and Service. As an act of service, we will be serving a meal at Serve City on April 3rd. We held one of our meetings (and had lunch) at the Fringe Coffee House as a way to support

the work they do. Plus, it's a super cool place to hang out! We may have to make this a regular thing!











We also continue exploring other faith traditions. We enjoyed an interesting tour of the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati where we learned about the Muslim religion. At another meeting, we had a special guest, Priya, who shared with us about her Hindu faith.

We found our religions have so much more in common than we do different!





Πεαχε βε υντο ψου ανδ τηε ωηολε ωορλδ

Two fun events scheduled for April!

On Saturday, April 2, we will visit the Museum of Spiritual Art in Franklin, Ohio. (I know! I didn't know about this museum either! Can't wait to check it out!) Anyone is welcome to go with us! Let Julie Mislansky know if you'd like to go.

From their website:

"The Museum of Spiritual Art is the private art collection of Ramesh and Chris Malhotra. The collection includes works by local artists and by artists from across the globe. The art and artifacts on display are representative of the world's different religions."

On Friday, April 22, we will have a Fun Night Out with dinner and putt-putt golf.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

APRIL MISSION PROJECT



We will be supporting Serve City this month as we collect donations needed for their residents. There will be bins in the narthex for your donations. *Note:*

We will collect items through Sunday, April 24.

Specific items that are needed: TWIN SHEET SETS **IBUPROFEN TYLENOL TUMS** COUGH DROPS PLASTIC FORKS AND SPOONS DISPOSABLE CUPS, PLATES, AND **BOWLS** LAUNDRY DETERGENT FABRIC SOFTENER TOILET PAPER BAR SOAP DEODORANT (men and women) RAZORS, SHAVING CREAM (men and women) TOOTHBRUSHES, **TOOTHPASTE** SHAMPOO (2-in-1 shampoo/ conditioner is great) INDIVIDUALLY WRÁPPED SNACK **ITEMS**

We will also be supplying 2 meals for the residents of Serve City.

On Sunday, April 3
The youth group will deliver and serve a meal.

On Wednesday, April 6
we will be asking for donations
from the congregation.
They love our casseroles, so...
"if it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

We will make casseroles! Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex to volunteer or see Charlotte Tierney

St. Mark's Little Free Pantry

In May 2016, Jessica McClard launched the grassroots Little Free Pantry movement. By August 2016 the movement was global. Throughout the US and internationally, the grassroots mini pantry movement continues growing and moving. In the Cincinnati area 1 in 7 neighbors are at risk of hunger, 1-11 seniors are food insecure, and 76,000 children in the Tristate live with hunger. The need for food has increased by 60% since the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Brick and mortar pantries cannot fill the needs of every person experiencing hunger but, We can help!

Neighborhood Little Free Pantries fill immediate needs for many families, seniors and the working poor. They serve as a safety net for those who might fall through the cracks, people who feel embarrassment and shame accepting help from a brick and mortar pantry. Neighbors that work during normal pantry open hours. And, families that might have short term emergency needs. The Little Free Pantry creates neighborhood space for exercising compassion, trust and mutual aid.

This will be an ongoing mission opportunity and lesson in generous giving for our G.L.OW. kids.

And while Children and Families will maintain the pantry, anyone is welcome to donate goods.

The Little Free Pantry will be located, in the greenspace, between the Fairfield Ave entrance and the parsonage driveway. It is a well lit and easily accessible.

Acceptable items: Canned veggies, fruits, proteins. Personal care items, Paper goods, Non-perishable boxed food items, Laundry detergent, and Diapers. Non acceptable items: Clothing. Food items in glass iars.

Chemicals, Razors or other sharp items.

We are very grateful for Bob Hamp who supplied the material and built our Little Free Pantry, to Danny Thomas for his help in planning, and to Troop 960 for installing it.

Blessing Box

"RAISE THE ROOF"



Thank you for your generous donations for the "Raise the Roof" campaign for our University of Cincinnati college friends!

The Wesley Foundation at UC is asking for help to replace the roof on their Clifton Avenue house, and we collected \$826 towards that goal.



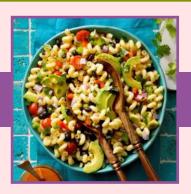
"The most truly generous persons are those who give silently without hope of praise or reward."

—Carol Ryrie Brink

FELLOWSHIP HALL EVENT







2022 ANNUAL SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON & CRAFTS

Thursday, May 5, 2022 11am-1pm \$10 per person

Oponsored by the Monday Craft Ladies



Don't let the term "Palad" concern you...

There will be much more than iceberg lettuce on the menu. We will have a tasty and a wide variety of salads. A few examples are: Chicken salad, Pasta salad, Deviled eggs, Slaw, Five bean, Fruits, Cheese ball, and so many more.

There will be a mouth-watering selection of dessert options too. This is your chance to get out your favorite salad and/or dessert recipes and share it with everyone!

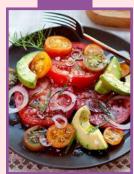


Don't forget desserts!

A selection of handmade crafts & "good" used books will be available while you spend the day socializing with everyone. Family & Friends are welcome.

Wondering how you can make a salad more interesting and exciting?

Here are 5 easy ways to spice up your salads:



- 1.Toast your nuts! If you love the crunch that nuts give to a salad, try toasting them to release even more flavor!
- 2.Add a touch of sweetness. Consider a drizzle of honey or even maple syrup!
- 3. Chop your salad, who doesn't love a finely chopped salad?
- 4. Change up your temperatures, not all salads have to be served cold so consider adding a warm dressing, warm protein (Ex. Chicken) or even warm roasted vegetables.
- 5.Don't forget texture! Consider a variety of textures from crunchy to creamy!

MUSIC MINISTRY



Great things are going to be happening...

...within the Music Ministry as Lent continues and Holy Week/Easter quickly approaches.

The choir will be joining the First Baptist Church of Hamilton to sing the cantata "Hope In The Shadows" for a very special

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service at 7:00 pm.

Make plans to attend this beautiful service, moving music, orchestra, narration all combine to make this a wonderful way to prepare your heart for Easter.

The choir combined back in 2016 and 2017 with the First Baptist choir and if you attended either of those services you'll remember how moving those services were. Any choir member or person interested in joining in the singing of this cantata, please let me know.

I have plenty of books and listening CD's.





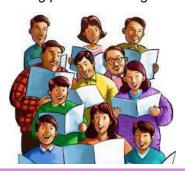


St. Mark's is planning a Good Friday service at 7:00pm.

This will be our own Tenebrae service. Scripture and special music will combine to make this service another awesome time in preparing for Easter Sunday morning.

I am putting together a program that will be available to view online beginning Friday, April 15 titled "Voices From the Cross"

Monologues from different viewpoints of key people involved with events leading up to crucifixion tell their stories of what it was like to be touched by this very special man named, Jesus. In between narrations will be music selections to help tie this hopefully, moving presentation together.



Easter Sunday will be the return of the Chancel Choir singing for the first time in two years!! While talking with Pastor Joe about this, it made us both tear up at the anticipation of this wonderful moment.

This is a perfect time for anyone to join choir and to come sing with us, all are welcome! Also, during Easter Sunday morning worship, the handbell choir will be ringing, Linda Payne and I have a duet, and of course all the wonderful Easter hymns!



What a glorious morning this is going to be for so many reasons. One more thing, Sue and I will be posting an online Lent/Easter Hymnology soon. There will be two Lenten lessons with three hymns in each, and an Easter lesson containing three more great hymns.

Spring has sprung, and the Music Ministry is blooming right along with season!

POEMS WRITTEN BY LINDA PAYNE



AWAKE

(sung to the hymn Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart)

Awake all you who sleep, arise and greet the dawn.

Be glad in heart, all you who weep; behold the night is gone.

(Refrain): Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise to Jesus Christ.

Awake, your carols raise, to greet the rising sun. So, let us join our songs of praise, exalt the Holy One. Refrain

Christ came to bring us life, abundant joy and peace.
With grateful hearts we strive to serve and charity increase.
Refrain

Let love rule in our hearts; like Jesus we would be.
With each new day a fresh, clean start clothed in humility.
Refrain

FINANCIAL UPDATE

TIM MISLANSKY, TREASURER GALE GOODMAN, FINANCE CHAIR

Greetings St. Mark's Family,

Our new year is off to a good start and giving is up! We received \$26,200 in February and have received \$61,400 for the year. This puts us about \$5,000 more than last year.

We spent about \$25,800 during the month and \$54,700 for the year to "run the church." This is up from last year, but offset by our increased giving. Half of our increased spending is in salaries for our staff and the rest is spread out among a number of categories like office supplies, utilities and utilities.

We ended the month with about \$620,800 at the credit union. Of this, approximately \$20,000 is in the parking lot fund as we work to wrap up that project and \$41,000 is in designated funds. We also ended the month with about \$2,000 in bills due. We are still "borrowing" from ourselves as we do not have enough cash to pay out all the bills and the designated accounts. This amount varies over time but typically is between \$1,000 and \$10,000. We ended February with just less than \$1,000 in borrowings from our designated accounts.

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

RISE UP and become the person YOU were meant to be.



I will bring the onethird through the fire,

I will refine them as silver is refined,

And test them as gold is tested.

They will call on My name, And I will answer them.

I will say, "This is My people"

And each one will say, "The Lord is my God."

— Zechariah 13:9



PICK ME UP MOMENTS — APRIL

COMPILED BY CAROL PITTMAN

"Rise Up and Be Blessed Moments"

Apr 01, 2022	Nothing feels better than knowing God loves you, that He is always there for you, and that
	He will always take care of us.—Anon
Apr 02, 2022	Be still and know that I am God.—Psalm 46:10
Apr 03, 2022	Christ with me; Christ before me; Christ behind me; Christ in me—St. Patrick prayer
Apr 04, 2022	God will lead you where He wants you to be but you have to talk to Him daily to see where
	He wants you to go. The key Is prayer.—Anon
Apr 05, 2022	And this is the promise that He made to us; eternal life.—1 John 2:25
Apr 06, 2022	We fall. We break. We fail. But with Jesus, we rise, we heal, we overcome.—Anon
Apr 07, 2022	Your strength lies in your intimacy with God.—Anon
Apr 08, 2022	Life is a sum of all your choices.—Albert Camus
Apr 09, 2022	I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.
	And whoever believes in me shall never die.—John 11:25-26
Apr 10, 2022	Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.—Hymn written by the Gaithers
Apr 11, 2022	Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in
	springtime.—Martin Luther
Apr 12, 2022	While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.—Roman 5:8
Apr 13, 2022	It wasn't nails that held Him to the cross but His love for you and me.—Sharon Lagueux
Apr 14, 2022	The very first Easter taught us this: That life never ends and love never dies.—Kate McGahan
Apr 15, 2022	Easter symbolizes a renewal of life, hope and happiness.—Anon
Apr 16, 2022	Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.—Luke 23:34
Apr 17, 2022	The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who
	was crucified. He is not here; He has risen just as He said.—Matthew 28:5-6
Apr 18, 2022	A flower blooms for its own joy.—Oscar Wilde
Apr 19. 2022	What we practice daily is what we build a life on. Practice peace, love, and kindnessSharon Hutchinson
Apr 20, 2022	Faith makes all things possible; love makes all things easy.—Dwight L. Moody
Apr 21, 2022	Nature always wears the colors of the spirit.—Ralph Waldo Emerson
Apr 22, 2022	The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day. He created Spring.—Bernard Williams
Apr 23, 2022	Choose what makes your heart bloom.—Dhiman
Apr 24, 2022	I can't help thinking that this would be a better world if everyone would listen to God.—Anon
Apr 25, 2022	I have learned that people will forget what you said; people will forget what you did; but people
	will never forget how you made them feel.—Maya Angelou
Apr 26, 2022	Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.—Lao Tza
Apr 27, 2022	Everything you need will come to you at the perfect time.—Anon
Apr 28, 2022	Spend the day appreciating every little thing that comes your way and you will end the day feeling
	deeply grateful for your life.—Maryan Merchant
Apr 29, 2022	Do not learn how to react but rather, Learn how to respond.—Buddha
Apr 30, 2022	Listening is often the only thing needed to help someone.—Anon





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

G.L.O.W.@Night—Sharing food, fun and faith!

For children 4 years old through grade 5
Dinner at 5:30pm
The fun begins at 6pm until 7pm
Dates: Sundays: April 24, May 1 and May 22

Please email: p.smith@fairfieldstmarks.com if your child/children will be having dinner with us.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt for (All) ages SATURDAY, April 9 at 2:00 pm

Join us for a tradition that is very dear to all of us.
The Children and Family Ministries invites you to "Hop On Over" and join us for our Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 9 at 2PM (IF it rains, then it will be held indoors)
We will begin with Crafts, Story time and Snacks followed by the Egg Hunt. There might even be a "Special Visitor". This event is open to children & grandchildren of our St. Mark's family, but feel free to bring a friend! Hope to see you there!

Bring a BASKET TO COLLECT YOUR EGGS.



Palm Parade Sunday, April 10 <u>During Worship</u>

Come lead our church in Hosannas during the Palm Procession.
A most beloved tradition for the children and youth in our church.

Sunday school will follow.



Easter Morning Celebration Sunday, April 17

SAVE THE DATE:

VBS 2022

JUNE 26-JUNE 30





BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY

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

	April Birthdays	
4/01	Bob Klingel	82
4/02	Dave Booker	
4/03	Gay Kubik	
4/05	Athena Edmundson	3
4/07	Layton Edmundson	18
4/11	Brandon Stanifer	
4/13	Gil Dole	
4/14	Joy Addis	
4/15	Cindy Miller	
4/16	Katie Chambers	11
4/19	Randy Starkie	
4/21	Greg Keith	
4/21	Kristin Randall	13
4/23	Bob Pittman	
4/28	Tre Edmundson	
4/28	Dick Kuertz	86
4/28	Sue Rumley	

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Pastor Joe, Greg Pullem, Jeff Gering, Jim Jones and Bud Aydlett



For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

— II Corinthians 4:16

April Anniversaries
Rich & Karen Turner 47



St. Mark's Trustee's Corner "Spring Spruce Up" Saturday, April 2 at 9am

4/12



Welcome Spring!

If you have driven down the Fairfield Avenue side of the church, you may have noticed that the winter weather did not spare our gutters. Our Trustee's had Ray St. Clair replace the damaged gutter a couple weeks ago.

Spring is here and we need to fluff the mulch, pull some weeds and plant a few flowers out front.

We will spend a few hours sprucing up the lawn before Easter. Be on the lookout for a date in May for the "All Church Work Day" where we can trim bushes, and generally do other clean up and minor repairs in and outside.

Helping Hands...

This is an ongoing effort to identify those who can spend time working on areas in and around the church with minor updates, clean ups or necessary tasks. Sign up on the back of the attendance card, and a St. Mark's Trustee will contact you. Additionally, the list of items that we are seeking helping hands for will be posted on the Trustee update bulletin board beginning Sunday, March 20. This list will be updated as items are completed or new needs arise. We all can join in to help keep St. Marks beautiful! Respectfully Submitted—In HIS service, Jennie Marshall

RUTH'S CIRCLE MEETING

Friday, April 22 at 1pm (Fellowship Hall)

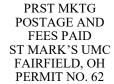
We would love to have ALL women of the church to join us.
For more information contact
Pam Guynes at
(513)779-9162 or Pamguynes2@gmail.com

<u>Charlene Miller</u> at (513)-844-6793 or chardarmiller@gmail.com



ST. MARK'S UMC CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		, 27		Earth Day	•	Spring Spruce U - Church 9:00am Confirmation Class/Youth Group visit to the Museum of Spiritual Art 2:00pm - 6:00pm
3	4	5	•	7	8	,
NO G.L.O.W. Holy Communion 9:30am - 10:30am Confirmation Class 3:30pm - 5:00pm Dinner 5:00pm - 6:00pm Youth Group/Serve City meal 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Crafters Group 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - 8:00pm	CYFM Team 6:45pm Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm Trustees 7:00pm	Serve City Men's Prayer Group 7:30am Bible Study 2:00pm - 3:00pm Handbell Choir 6:00pm - 7:00pm Room at the Table 6:45pm - 8:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm - 9:00pm	Butler County Teacher Assoc. Meeting 12:00pm - 2:30pm Book Club 1:00pm - 2:00pm Small group Bible study 7:00pm - 9:00pm Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm		Easter Egg Hunt 2:00pm
Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am	Crafters Group 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - 8:00pm	Administrative Board 7:00pm Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm	Men's Prayer Group 7:30am Bible Study 2:00pm - 3:00pm Handbell Choir 6:00pm - 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm - 9:00pm	Butler County Teachers Assoc. Meeting 12:00pm - 2:30pm Maundy Thursday at First Baptist, Hamilton Tenebrae Service 7:00pm Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm	Good Friday Service 7:00pm	16
17 Easter Sunday	18	19	20	21	22	23
Easter Worship & G.L.O.W. Choir Sings 9:30am - 10:30am	Crafters Group 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - 8:00pm	Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm	Men's Prayer Group 7:30am Bible Study 2:00pm - 3:00pm Handbell Choir 6:00pm - 7:00pm Room at the Table 6:45pm - 8:15pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm - 9:00pm	Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm	Youth Fun Night Out with Dinner & Putt-Putt Golf Ruth's Circle 1:00pm - 2:00pm	Broken Bus serv & meal (youth group)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am Confirmation Class 3:30pm - 5:00pm Dinner 5:00pm - 6:00pm GLOW at NIGHT 5:00pm - 7:00pm	Crafters Group 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - 8:00pm	SPRC meeting 6:30pm - 7:30pm Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm	Men's Prayer Group 7:30am Bible Study 2:00pm - 3:00pm Handbell Choir 6:00pm - 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm - 9:00pm	Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm		





SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S APRIL 2022



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 9:30am - 3:00 pm Tuesday - (Office Closed)

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

Worship Service: Sundays 9:30 am