



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.

January 2022

2022 St. Mark's UMC Family Directory Submit your PHOTOS

We are updating the St. Mark's UMC Family Directory for 2022! Take a selfie or get someone else to take a picture of you to use in the church directory. When submitting a photograph of yourself, portrait (vertical) orientation is preferred.

* Note: If a professional photographer takes your picture, a release form needs to be signed in order for us to use it.

More information and directions on submitting your photo is coming soon. If ready, then E-mail a digital photo to L.bucalo@fairfieldstmarks.com



A LIMB HAS fallen from the
family tree
that says, *grieve not for me*
Remember the BEST TIMES,
the laughter, the song, the *good life*
I lived while I was STRONG.
- IN LOVING MEMORY -

Jean Bennett
Memorial Service
will be held on Saturday
January 15, 2022 at 11AM
in St. Mark's UMC Sanctuary

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Church Family,
We would like to say "thank you" for the unmistakable love in walking with us in this battle with lung cancer. Bless you all for your continued prayers, cards, and many blessings. God bless you all!

Love,
Rick & Terrill Broshear

"Do not fear,
for I AM with you;
Do not anxiously look about you,
for I AM your God.
I WILL strengthen you,
surely I WILL help you,
Surely I WILL uphold you
with My righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10



new year

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOE



Dear St. Mark's family,

Happy New Year! It may seem ludicrous to consider making any New Year's resolutions this year, given the ongoing pandemic and uncertainty that goes along with it. Nonetheless, I think I have come up with a couple of good ones for myself.

First, I resolve to **assume less**. I have certainly made my share of assumptions these past couple of years! At this time last year, I assumed that by January 2022 the Covid virus would be long behind us. Boy, was I ever wrong about that! Since I assumed that the pandemic would be over, I also assumed that the postponed 2020 United Methodist General Conference would finally be held in 2021. Boy, was I ever wrong about that! I also assumed that our in-person worship attendance would be back to pre-pandemic levels. Boy, was I ever wrong about that! Thank goodness for you folks who continue to worship with us via livestream. So yes, it's time I learn not to assume so much.

Second, I resolve to trust more. You and I do not know what 2022 has in store for us, but this old refrain rings true for me now more than ever:

"We may not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future."

If there is anything I have learned these past few years, it is to make plans, but also to plan to pivot if need be. We are indeed making plans for 2022. I am looking forward to the coming year, as I know you are. At the same time, we will be flexible, roll with the punches, improvise, and pivot if we need to. And, we will do this with the assurance that the Risen Christ is with us.

No matter what 2022 brings, I am going to remember these promises of Jesus:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." (John 14:1)
and

"Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b)

Those are my two resolutions: to assume less and to trust more. How about you? Let me know your New Year's resolutions, if you have made any.

Happy 2022 to you and yours,

Looking ahead in worship

December 26 – Christmas Music with Chris and Sue

January 2: "The Light of Home" (John 1:1-9)

Beginning January 9: A Worship Series for Winter

Love Never Ends: Letting the Light Shine Around You, In You, and From You

January 9 – "Well Pleased" (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)

January 16 – "Varieties of Gifts" (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

January 23 – "You Are *the* Body" (1 Corinthians 12:12-31a)

January 30 – Guest Preacher TBA



YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY JULIE MISLANSKY



Our Confirmation class continues with our latest lesson focused on perfection—ouch! We found out that Christian perfection is not quite the same as “perfection,” and that we are all continually striving for perfection—knowing that God always offers us grace! We are taking a break for the holidays, and we will meet again on January 16, 2022 for our next class.

As part of our Confirmation class, and learning about other faith traditions, we went to a Shabbat service at the Rockdale Temple. It was a beautiful service of prayers and songs, much of it in Hebrew. Afterwards, the Rabbi Erin spent time with us answering our questions and sharing the Torah scrolls with us.



Youth at Light Up Middletown

The youth group had some Christmas fun on the December 12th. We drove through the “Light Up Middletown” light show and then watched a Christmas movie, with a lot of snacks, in the youth room.



Letter from Gay Kubik:

We have had our ‘Yard Sign’ displayed for weeks now, in our yard by the driveway. The signs read: “Don’t Give Up” & “It’s Not Too Late.”

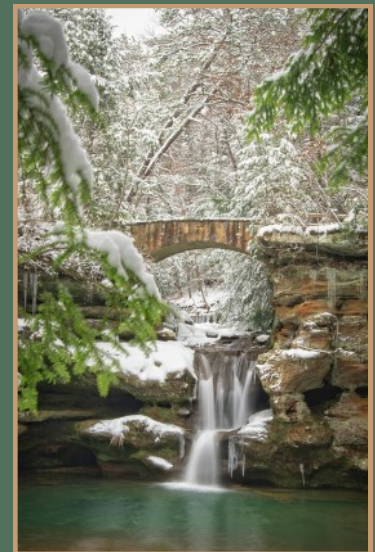
Last night, just after dark, our doorbell rang. It was a neighbor, who said he’s been taking walks around the neighborhood while he thinks about serious decisions he has been bombarded with lately. The sign makes him stop and ponder his choices. He rang the bell to find out why we had the sign up, and to make sure that we are okay. He loved the explanation about our youth group selling them as a missions fundraiser and to promote support and understanding for mental health challenges. He thanked us for the messages.

It was a God moment.
Just thought you’d like the feedback!

Youth Winter Retreat Jan., 28-30th

We are looking forward to our Winter Retreat, January 28-30th, in a cabin at Hocking Hills! If anyone would like to write a note of support & encouragement for our youth to be given to them during the weekend, please give them to Julie. Thank You!

We want to surround our youth with love & prayer that weekend!



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

January Mission Opportunities

We are scheduled to serve at
Matthew 25 Ministries
January 22, 2022 (Saturday) 9-11AM
This is our first time back since pre-Covid, nearly 2 years ago! All ages & abilities are welcome to join us!

For more information contact
Lynne Schumacker at
lynneshoe@icloud.com
or call (513) 382-0488

Sign up sheet on the
narthex bulletin board.



ST. MARK'S CARES Advent Mission Project: Parkside Nursing and Rehab Center

What a joy it was for Sue, Charlotte, Lynne, and Julie to deliver all of your beautifully wrapped and thoughtfully bought gifts for the residents of Parkside! We were able to fulfill every resident's wishes and then some! With all the "extra stuff" and monetary donations, we filled two baskets for the Parkside staff.

The director and several members of the staff greeted us and were so appreciative. Thank you for helping to make 55 residents and 90 staff members have a brighter holiday, knowing that we care about them!



RUTH'S CIRCLE January 21 at 1pm

Ruth Circle is meeting in Fellowship Hall on Friday, January 21 at 1pm. Ruth Circle is open to ALL women of the church and we would love to have you join us.

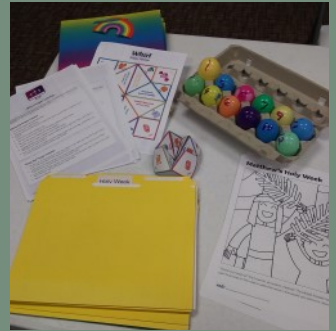
Please contact
Pam Guynes at (513)-779-9162 or
Pamguynes2@gmail.com or
Charlene Miller at
(513)-844-6793 or
chardarmiller@gmail.com
for any questions.



ST. MARK'S FAMILY MINISTRY

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

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



Thank you for supporting a wonderful year of Children and Family ministry at St. Mark's!



MUSIC MINISTRY

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC CHRIS BEISER



I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and looking forward to a blessed and prosperous 2022.

I want to thank everyone who made the Advent and Christmas season special by adding their musical talents for a Sunday morning service, Christmas Eve, or the music service on December 26. The addition of all the beautiful Christmas music makes each service even more God honoring.

Sue and I want to thank everyone who gave Hymnology for the Holidays a listen. We ended up doing 6 sessions. Each of them are posted on the church website, and also on YouTube. At some point we should post a blooper video, it would be quite entertaining! I appreciate all the work Sue puts into this project. She researches each hymn from many different sources before preparing the interesting history of each of the hymns. Mark works many extra hours to make each video a professional presentation, and he does a perfect job each time.



We would be silent without the sound assistance from Rick, he is always willing to help, and Sue and I are thankful for all that he does.

The handbell choir will begin rehearsing again in January. This is always the perfect time for a new member to join in. Talk to Dianne Aiken, Sue Combs or myself if this fun music ministry interests you.

The choir...I'm going to try once again (Mid-January) to do "all call Sunday morning singing". This will be a quick meeting of choir members at 8:30AM on a Sunday morning to go through a familiar song to sing during that service. I am working out the specific details and will be informing the choir and congregation on how this will work. *Watch the bulletin for details.*

Please pray for the Music Ministry as we head into 2022. I can't believe that it has almost been 2 years since the choir has been together to sing. I miss not getting to sing, laugh, pray, and fellowship on Wednesday and Sundays with a very special group of people whom I love dearly.

As always I am honored and blessed to serve the Lord and the amazing people of St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

POEMS WRITTEN BY LINDA PAYNE

A COVENANT PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

(Based on a prayer by John Wesley)

Let all I am be your delight.
My heart is yours
to grow, extinguish, or ignite.
My soul implores:
employ me as your hands and feet,
let me be empty or replete,
victorious or face defeat,
my heart is yours.

Each wondrous blessing that's
displayed,
my heart adores.
With you a covenant I've made,
forevermore.

I freely yield all I possess,
so, bring me low in humbleness
or raise me up in joyfulness;
my heart is yours.

*Everything in me use it
for your Glory...*



*That everyone will see, will hear,
will know...
that you are the LORD OF ALL!*

FINANCIAL UPDATE

TIM MISLANSKY, TREASURER
GALE GOODMAN, FINANCE CHAIR

Greetings St. Mark's Family,

As we close out the year and enter into a time of celebration, there is much to celebrate in terms of the church's finances. Our pledge campaign was a strong success. Thank you to everyone who submitted a pledge card for your 2022 giving. We had a solid response. Your pledges and giving allow us to continue to offer tremendous ministries to all aspects of our congregation and those outside the walls of our church.

	2022	2020
Total Pledges - #	79	82
Total Pledges - \$	\$273,125	\$259,879

This represents an increase of 5% in the amount of pledges! If you haven't completed a pledge card, there is still time. Contact Lyn in the church office to get a card if you need one.

We received \$24,100 in November – about the same as compared to October. Year-to-date we have received \$289,100 which remains down about 5% from last year. We spent nearly \$25,000 during the month and year-to-date, our expenses have been \$285,000 – almost \$1,000 less than last year. We continue to handle all our expenses well and keep them in check. We paid our final installment on our apportionments and are on our way to our 5th consecutive year of 100% payment!

As we move forward, we will be preparing the church's 2022 budget – an easier process this year due to the pledges! We will also be looking to establish our endowment fund for planned giving. More to come on this exciting initiative. So in closing, thank you for your generosity and cheerful giving to St. Mark's the past year and for your continued support in the future.

If you have questions about anything related to St. Mark's finances, please do not hesitate to ask either me or Gale. May you and your families have a very Merry Christmas and blessed new year.

Sincerely,

Tim Mislansky, Treasurer
Gale Goodman, Finance Chair

Luke 6:38:
Give, and it will
be given to you.
A good measure,
pressed down,
shaken together
and running
over, will be
poured into your
lap. For with the
measure you
use, it will be
measured to you.



PICK ME UP MOMENTS

COMPILED BY CAROL PITTMAN

January 2022

- Jan 01 Morning is God's way of saying one more time, go make a difference, touch a heart, encourage a mind, inspire a soul and enjoy the day. —Anon
- Jan 02 I came so that you might have life and live it abundantly. —John 10:10
- Jan 03 God will give you the strength to get through ANY situation. —Sharon Jaynes
- Jan 04 The Bible is the only book whose author is always present when one reads it. —Anon
- Jan 05 God walks with you. —Leviticus 26:12
- Jan 06 When my arms can't reach the people who are close to my heart...I always hug them with my prayers. —Anon
- Jan 07 Give God a room to work in your life and He will do great things. —Anon
- Jan 08 Before you say something, think how you'd feel if someone said that to you. —Anon
- Jan 09 Give your all even if it goes unnoticed. —Rangamath Mukherjee
- Jan 10 Pray, then let it go. Don't try to manipulate or force the outcome. Just trust God to open the right doors at the right time. —John E. White
- Jan 11 The Lord your God is with you. He is mighty to save. He will rejoice over you with singing and quiet you with His love. —Zephaniah 3:17
- Jan 12 Never say you're having a bad day...say you're having a character building day. —Les Brown
- Jan 13 One little prayer can change one huge situation. —Arish Khan
- Jan 14 You cannot break a person who gets their strength from God. —Anon
- Jan 15 Time and good friends are two things that become more valuable the older you get. —Anon
- Jan 16 With all your heart you must trust the Lord and not your own judgement. Always let Him lead you and He will clear the road for you to follow. —Proverb 3:5-6
- Jan 17 If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest. —Corrie ten Boom
- Jan 18 Sometimes all you can do is leave it in God's hands and wait. He won't fail you. —Anon
- Jan 19 God didn't give us scripture to scare us. God gave us scripture to prepare us. —Anon
- Jan 20 When you start looking at people's hearts instead of their faces life become clearer. —Anon
- Jan 21 God doesn't forget your prayers. He will answer when the time is right. —Jan Lee Logan
- Jan 22 Sometimes you face difficulties not because you're doing something wrong, but because you're doing something right. —Joel Osteen
- Jan 23 In this world you will have trouble but take heart, I have overcome the world. —John 16:33
- Jan 24 God gives us two gifts every day. One is a choice, the other is a chance. The choice of a good life and the chance to make it the best. —Anon
- Jan 25 God will meet your needs. —Philippians 4:19
- Jan 26 Kindness is loaning someone your strength instead of reminding them of their weakness.—Andy Stanley
- Jan 27 We need to do what we can do and let God do what we cannot. —Joyce Meyer
- Jan 28 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. —Jeremiah 29:13
- Jan 29 Your storms are only temporary, but the blessings of God last forever. —Anon
- Jan 30 A moment of patience in a moment of anger save you a hundred moments of regret.
—Ali ibn Abi Talib
- Jan 31 Life doesn't require that we be the best, only that we try our best. —H. Jackson Brown, Jr.



2022 Administrative Leadership

Administrative Council **(*Non voting member)**

Chairperson	Julie Dichtl
Lay leader/ Lay Me. Annual Conference	Mark Hensler
Children & Family Ministries	Sue Luken
Nurture & Care	Pam Guynes
St. Mark's Cares	Julie Mislansky*
SPRC Chair	Jennifer Rinker
Finance Chair	Gale Goodman
Treasurer	Tim Mislansky

Trustee Chair or Rep (Elected by Committee)

Members at Large:	2022	Marty Kubik
	2023	Charlotte Tierney
	2024	Dave Booker

Staff Representatives	Peggy Smith*
	Julie Mislansky*
	Chris Beiser*
	Pastor Joe*

Nominations and Leadership Development	
	2022 Brenda Smoot
	Gay Kubik
	2023 Cheryl Kemen
	Debbie Bryant
	2024 Sue McDaniel
	Beth Ewald
	Pat Sena
	Pastor Joe*, Chair
	Mark Hensler, Lay Leader

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

2022	Rick Kiefer
	Pat Belarski
2023	Jennifer Rinker, Chair
	Suzan Stracke
	Tom Tierney
2024	Pam Brockfield
	Susan Bunte
	Pastor Joe*
	Mark Hensler, Lay Leader

Finance Committee

2022	Pam Finfrock
	Tim Mislansky, Treasurer
2023	Bob Pittman
	Don Menke
2024	Gale Goodman, Chair
	Eric Leyrer
	Ruth Ritenbaugh, Financial Secretary
	Pastor Joe*
	Mark Hensler, Lay Leader

Trustees

2022	Bob Mendenhall
	Penny Dole
	Jenn Specht
2023	Rich Turner
	Jennie Marshall
	Marlis Hatton
2024	Matt Snyder
	Tonya Leguina
	Pastor Joe*

Boy Scout Charter Organization Rep. Peggy Smith

St Mark's Trustees Report

Happy New Year! Your Trustees are staying busy coming into the new year. You may have already seen the new light pole in the corner of the parking lot. We are waiting for an adjustment of the lights and do have them working. Also, we contacted Duke about the street lighting on Anthony Wayne and when both lights are on. We will continue to evaluate our parking lot lighting needs into the new year.

"WE NEED YOU" Campaign!



Your Trustees are stewards of the property God has entrusted to the congregation, but we need you too! In 2022, we will be looking for a new way for all of the congregation to participate in keeping our church beautiful.

Do you have time to dedicate or do you have a particular

talent you can share? Is there something you have seen that could be fixed or done? Well, we have a job for you and want to ensure that you can help on your schedule.

First, sign up on the back of the welcome/attendance card OR email Jennie Marshall marshall.jenlyn@gmail.com. Please provide your name & contact information (phone number and/or email). Beginning mid-January, a member of the Trustees will contact you to discuss the job/tasks, the date & time, and if we need to schedule access to the building.

We will be looking at mini-projects throughout January and February 2022. Then in March, we will have a "Church Work Day" on Saturday, details coming soon. Also, we will look at Spring projects that can be scheduled throughout March, April and May.

This is a new approach in participating Church Work Days. We will adapt and adjust pending the responses. For more information contact Jennie Marshall, 2021 Trustee Chair.

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY

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



January Birthday's

01/02	Jase Anders	4
01/04	Jerry Jones	
01/04	Joann Keith	
01/05	Helen Brown	
01/05	Ron Hamblin	
01/05	Kai Sines	16
01/06	Lyn Bucalo	
01/07	David Brockfield	
01/07	Shelby Creager	11
01/08	Holly Craig	
01/08	Donal McDaniel	
01/08	Ann Shellman	
01/08	Kallie Theiss	8
01/12	Brooke Becker	
01/12	Norma Cox	
01/18	Kayden Dutey-Anderson	14
01/19	Jerry Hartwig	
01/20	Bud Aydlett	88
01/22	Beth Phillippo	
01/22	Pat Pitman	
01/22	Terri Roemer	
01/24	Karen Turner	
01/26	Betty Roark	
01/28	Caitlin Menke	
01/28	Ciara Menke	
01/29	Betty Jones	
01/30	Bob Hamp	
01/31	Eric Leyrer	

January Anniversaries

01/05	Carl & Beth Phillippo	32
01/07	Mike & Diane Aiken	55
01/16	Dale & Elaine Shreve	57
01/18	Jeff Guynes	2

LITURGIST CLASS, SUNDAYS JANUARY 9, 16 & 23, 2022

Linda Payne will be offering another Liturgist class on January 9, 16, and 23, 2022.



We will meet after Sunday worship in the front of the sanctuary. Anyone interested, please contact Linda after church to sign up. See you there.



If you have borrowed the communion kits, please return them as soon as possible. Thank you, from Nurture & Care Committee.



St. Mark's UMC Calendar

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crafters Group 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - 8:00pm 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joan Streckfuss Funeral at Spring Grove Mausoleum 10:00am - 11:00am CYFM Team 6:45pm Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm Trustees 7:00pm 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Prayer Group 7:30am Bible Study 2:00pm - 3:00pm Handbell Choir 6:00pm - 7:00pm Room at the Table meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Club 1:00pm - 2:00pm Small group Bible study 7:00pm - 9:00pm Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm 	 <p>7</p>	<p>1 New Year's Day</p>
<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am Liturgist Class 10:30am 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crafters Group 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - 8:00pm 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Board 7:00pm Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Prayer Group 7:30am Bible Study 2:00pm - 3:00pm Handbell Choir 6:00pm - 7:00pm 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurture & Care Committee 11:00am - 12:00pm St. Mark's Cares 6:00pm - 7:30pm Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean Bennett Memorial 11:00am - 1:00pm
<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am Liturgist Class 10:30am Confirmation Class 3:30pm - 5:00pm Dinner for youth 5:00pm - 6:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm - 7:00pm 	<p>17 Martin Luther King Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crafters Group 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - 8:00pm 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Prayer Group 7:30am Bible Study 2:00pm - 3:00pm Handbell Choir 6:00pm - 7:00pm Room at the Table meeting 6:30pm - 8:00pm 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth's Circle 1:00pm - 2:00pm 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew 25 Volunteering 9:00am - 11:00am
<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am Liturgist Class 10:30am 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crafters Group 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - 8:00pm 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Prayer Group 7:30am Bible Study 2:00pm - 3:00pm Handbell Choir 6:00pm - 7:00pm 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narcotics Anon. 7:30pm - 9:00pm 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Winter Retreat 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Winter Retreat
<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Winter Retreat Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am Confirmation Class 3:30pm - 5:00pm Dinner 5:00pm - 6:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm - 7:00pm 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crafters Group 10:00am Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - 8:00pm 					

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 JANUARY 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
9:30 - Noon, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Tuesday - Office Closed

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

Worship Service:
Sundays 9:30 am