

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.

AUGUST 2022

Thank You...

Thank you to everyone who called to check on me while I am still recovering. Thank you to all of those who sent me cards, notes, called, texts and prayers. Thank you for everything you do!
Mary Lou Knau

*Dear St. Mark's friends,
Thank you so much for remembering Jim with all your cards, prayers & memorial gifts. Jim loved St. Mark's and we watched the sermons every Sunday and he loved the music. The family really appreciated all you have done for us.
We are so Grateful,
Sue Beckett & Family*



*Dear St. Mark's,
Thank you for all of the cards, prayers, phone calls, texts, thoughts, and love while in the recovery process at home. I appreciate everyone so much!
Warmest thoughts,
Pat Sena*

*Thank you to everyone, for the prayers, cards, notes and phone calls. I am so grateful to everyone.
With deep appreciation,
Donna Hughes*

*Thank you so much...
For your thoughts and prayers upon the death of our granddaughter, Rachel.
In His Name,
Denny & Sue Mullen*



Thank You...

*YOU are the reason I am getting well! Your PRAYERS brought me safely through two hospital stays! There are NO WORDS to express my thankfulness to those reading this.
Also, I appreciated the calls, texts, visits and notes and cards! It is all about YOU! What a blessing to be a part of St. Mark's Church!
Special THANKS to the Pastor for his visit.
Love, Lois Hill*



TIME FOR A CHANGE

As some of you may know we moved to Otterbein near Lebanon in mid July. We intend to continue attending St. Mark's at least until the weather changes for the worse. Because of the increased distance, we have made the decision to no longer participate in organizing and preparing coffee & donuts Sunday mornings. We hope that someone, after prayerful thought, will decide to take over this responsibility, along with others, thereby continuing the fellowship that it provides. A few people have shown interest but more need to be involved so that it is not the responsibility of just one or two people. We will be glad to assist in any transition. We will continue to be involved with coffee & donuts through the end of August. After that date, will not be involved except to assist in any transition.
In His Name,
Gay & Marty Kubik

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOE



Dear St. Mark's Family,

You and I are a part of something truly wonderful here at St. Mark's. I believe this with all my heart. Both you and I know this, but isn't it good to have this confirmed by others outside our congregation!

Last week's guest preacher, the Rev. John Wagner, gave his honest assessment of St. Mark's. Did you hear what he had to say? In his opening remarks, he said, "It's clear you have a vibrant, engaged, bold church willing to try new things, faithful to the Gospel, faithful to all different kinds of outreach."

John didn't have to say this, and I have no doubt he meant what he said. Of course, I'm not surprised. We aren't perfect, of course. Far from it. But, what we have here at St. Mark's is indeed something special. Our church family continues our journey, endeavoring to live out our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We seek to live and love as Jesus would have us to, in words and deeds. This is lived out through our missional partnerships with Serve City, Matthew 25 Ministries, Broken Bus Ministry, NAMI, Big Brothers/Big Sisters. It's lived out in our ministry with our children and youth. It's lived out in our times of worship and fellowship. It's lived out in our vision of being a church that includes and affirms all.

In 1 Peter 2:9, we read,

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

This is who we are, or at least it's who we strive to be. John's words echoed through my soul, and I felt good about my place here with you. I hope you have the same feeling. As John reminded us, GOD IS GOOD. ALL THE TIME. ALL THE TIME. GOD IS GOOD.

Pleased and honored to continue with you on this journey of proclaiming Christ,

Pastor Joe



YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY JULIE MISLANSKY



Our St. Mark's Youth Group served our church and our community during our Annual Youth Mission Week, July 12-15.

We started the week... packing food boxes at Shared Harvest Foodbank, along with a group of ladies from St. Mark's. 268 boxes to be exact! This was a fun way to serve-teamwork-packing boxes assembly line style. Kaden and Gunnar had the hard work of stacking all the packed boxes!



Each day we worked... on measuring, stenciling, and painting the handicapped spaces in our church parking lot, bringing them up to ADA code, under the leadership of Tonya Leguina. This was not an easy task, as we had to follow the specifications to the tee! Not to mention, it is just a tad hot painting on asphalt on one of the hottest weeks yet!



Wednesday night we had fun! Along with family and a group of "youth alumni" we attended the FC Cincinnati soccer game. Unfortunately, it ended in a tie, but we had such a great time!



Our big mission for the week... was our "Fill the Truck" event for New Life Furniture. We made several trips to members' home to pick up donated furniture and household items. On Friday, the truck was here to pick up even more donations that people brought. Your donations filled a whole truck...and then some! Thank you to all who donated to our big event!



I am super proud of our youth; Jenn, Gunnar, Ali, and Kayden worked super hard this week, always with a smile and a willing heart. And a huge thank you to Tonya, who served alongside us every day.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Matthew Ministries



On June 25, St. Mark's had 8 volunteers sorting clothes; Deb Bryant, Don & Marilyn Stewart, Gale & Devin Goodman, David Brockfield and Tom Tierney.

Because you came

today

someone will be helped

tomorrow

ST. MARK'S CARES



The Caring Closet

August Mission is "The Caring Closet" of Hamilton. Their mission statement is dedicated to improving the lives of children ages K-12 in the Hamilton city school district by providing clothing and basic necessities to those in need. We believe positive self-esteem enhances the educational process and we rely on the generosity of our community to help us achieve our goal.

Currently, The Caring Closet is in need of toiletry pantry items that are unopened and full sized.

Below is a list of items they are seeking:

- 2 in 1 Shampoo/Conditioner
- Deodorant bar soap
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene (pads only, no tampons)
- Men's size (Med & Lrg) boxer brief underwear

As always we will have a collection bucket in the front Narthex for these items. We will be collecting these items for the entire month of August, with the last day on Sunday, August 28th. Please reach out to Sue Luken (513) 257- 8862 with any questions. Thanks in advance.

Our next meeting is August 11th at 6:30 pm.



FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS

SUNDAY AUGUST 7, ROOM AT THE TABLE CONGREGATION FORUM (after worship)

We will have another opportunity to voice any concerns and offer questions about becoming a Reconciling church in a neutral environment. Facilitated by our Lay leader, Mark Hensler. This time will be a hybrid (on-site and virtual) in the Sanctuary, after worship. For those attending virtually, a link to the ZOOM meeting will be shared in the August 7, Worship Bulletin and also in the comments on Facebook that day. We will be finished by noon and all are welcome.



SEPT 17, BIG BROTHER/BIG SISTER RUN 4 KIDS 5K WALK/RUN, 8:30AM



Last year, we won the participation award . Let's have another great year!

St. Mark's team is joining the BBBS Run 4 Kids 5K Walk/Run once again. We have a Sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board and/or you can register online at the BBBS (Butler County) The fee is \$30. Check-in and opening ceremony at 8:30 and the 5K Walk/Run begins at 9:30. We will meet at Rentschler Forest Metro Park. For questions, contact Lynne Schumacker (513) 382-0488.

The LINK is:

<https://ca-p2p.engagingnetworks.app/24485/run4kids2022/139655/st.-mark-s-Methodist-church>



MUSIC MINISTRY



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC CHRIS BEISER

Transitions are not an easy thing for me because that means change, and change means fear of the unknown future. I have always been one to want to

know what's going to happen in the "whodunnit" way before the "whodunnit" was going to be revealed.



My family vacation, taken always the first two weeks of August, was pretty consistent each year...Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. My dad loved the beach and unless my mom was able to persuade him on a really good day to change his mind, that's where we were going. Now I enjoyed the beach atmosphere, the sun, building sand castles, seashells, walks up and down the beach, but I DID NOT like the ocean. The ocean changes too much, waves in and out, some big some small. I was constantly wondering what lurked underneath the water that couldn't be seen, ready to snatch me under! I would go to the edge of the water but would never venture any further. I eagerly counted down the days though to vacation because other than that "ocean problem" I really enjoyed those summers. I'm like that right now with the Music Ministry. I'm eagerly counting the days before starting rehearsals, but there is a very large fear I have of the unknown. Sadly Covid has wrecked havoc and continues to do so on the Music Ministry of St. Mark's. I've received word from several members their health just won't allow them to be able to return. The Covid numbers go down and I think things are looking good, then the numbers spike and what looked promising now scares me because everything changes I can't see what's lurking underneath.



Wednesday, August 24, I am making full plans to begin choir practice at 7:30 pm. I pray to see as many choir members attend as feel comfortable and safe in doing so. I pray too, for new choir members to take this opportunity to join and enjoy a wonderful time of sharing God's wonderful word through music. We have always been a choir with a motto "make a joyful noise!" No audition or previous musical experience is necessary.

Sue has said how much she wishes she could get to the ocean again just to dip her feet in the water. I'm in agreement with her, but I think I want to venture out a little further, maybe even let the waves wash over me so I can be calmed and assured that everything is going to be alright. Just have a little faith!

**I hope everyone has a wonderful close to their summer...
and please prayerfully consider joining the choir August 24.**

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,
plans to prosper you, and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.

POEMS WRITTEN BY LINDA PAYNE



MORNING PRAYER

The sun rises
a glowing orb
casting a luminous trail
across the face of the water.
I want to step out, to
follow this path to eternity.
Is this what Peter saw
when he walked on the water to you?
The light of your face
guiding him, leading him?
Waves rise up
the path is disrupted
only to reappear a moment later.
Jesus, help me keep my eyes
on the path you've set before me.
Help me not to become distracted
by the momentary waves of life
that disrupt the path before me.
I know I will not stumble or sink
when I keep my eyes focused
on the light of your face.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

TIM MISLANSKY, TREASURER
GALE GOODMAN, FINANCE CHAIR

Greetings St. Mark's Family,

After a few months of really solid giving, we experienced some summer blues in June. We received only \$18,500 for the month. This is our worst giving month since May 2018. Year-to-date, we have received just over \$167,000, compared to \$155,000 for the same period last year. This is still a nice increase of \$12,000 or 8% - a sign of healthy giving in our church.

We spent \$22,400 in the month of June. This was lower than a normal month and good news since our giving was lower. Even with the reduced giving, we spent more than \$3,400 than we brought in. While this can be concerning, it's only one month. And one month does not make a trend.

Our expenses for this year are up \$17,000 from last year. The increases are in salaries (\$10,000) and capital improvements (\$7,000). All other categories are on target or have very minor increases compared to last year. We ended the month at about \$44,900 at the credit union. Because of the low giving in June, we increased the amount we are borrowing from ourselves by \$3,200 and are now borrowing about \$9,800 from ourselves.

We made our loan payment on time again and our debt is down to \$42,700. We also made an apportionment payment and have covered one-half of our annual apportionment bill.

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

Luke 12: 6-7



Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

FEAR NOT;
You are of more value than many sparrows!



PICK ME UP MOMENTS — AUGUST

COMPILED BY CAROL PITTMAN

"In a Hammock by the Sea is where I want to be..."

- Aug 01, 2022 Two principles for a happy life: Use things, not people. Love people, not things.—Anon
- Aug 02, 2022 Let your heart be the conductor of the beautiful symphony that's your life.—Jane Lee Logan
- Aug 03, 2022 It is not about who you impress. It is about who you impact.—Anon
- Aug 04, 2022 Love is the currency of your heart, spend it on people who enrich your life instead of the people who constantly hurt you.—Steve Aitchinson
- Aug 05, 2022 Angels exist but sometimes they don't have wings and are called our friends.—Kumar
- Aug 06, 2022 Today's accomplishments were yesterday's impossible.—Robert S. Schuller
- Aug 07, 2022 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.—Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)
- Aug 08, 2022 It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.—Audre Lorde
- Aug 09, 2022 Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.—John F. Kennedy
- Aug 10, 2022 Lessons in life will be repeated until they are learned.—Anon
- Aug 11, 2022 Strength grows in the moment when you think you can't go on, but you keep going anyway.
—Karen Salmansohn
- Aug 12, 2022 Let the lessons of today bring the wisdom for tomorrow. After all, it's by choice, not chance, that we grow into better humans.—Anon
- Aug 13, 2022 The more you know who you are and what you want, the less you let things upset you.—Stephanie Perkins
- Aug 14, 2022 But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins too.—Mark 11:25
- Aug 15, 2022 Trust that God will put the right people in your life at the right time for the right reasons.—Anon
- Aug 16, 2022 *When the time is right, I, the Lord, will make it happen.—Isaiah 60:22*
- Aug 17, 2022 C.O.F.F.E.E. = Christ Offers Forgiveness For Everyone Everywhere.—Anon
- Aug 18, 2022 You should tell people how much they mean to you always.—Anon
- Aug 19, 2022 Meet today's problems with today's strength. Don't start tackling tomorrow's problems until tomorrow. You do not have tomorrow's strength yet. You simply have enough for today.—Max Lucado
- Aug 20, 2022 God's Mercy is bigger than any of our mistakes.—Lamentations 3:22-23
- Aug 21, 2022 Take life day by day, be grateful for the little things, and try not to stress over what you can't control.—Anon
- Aug 22, 2022 One of the most powerful prayers you can ever pray is "God not my will, but let Your will be done".
—Joel Osteen
- Aug 23, 2022 Don't be afraid. Just believe.—Mark 5:36
- Aug 24, 2022 Life has many twists and turns and sometimes what looks like a very bad day can just be clearing the way for good things to come.—J. Kim Wright
- Aug. 25, 2022 You don't always need a logical reason for doing everything in your life. Do it because you want to; because it's fun; because it makes you happy. Enjoy life!—Anon
- Aug 26, 2022 Let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.—Ephesians 4:23
- Aug 27, 2022 When doubt and worry take over your mind, go to God and He will renew you with hope and joy.
—Psalm 94:19
- Aug 28, 2022 No matter how hard today is, remember you will never have to do this day again.—Anon
- Aug 29, 2022 Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind; Be led by the dreams of your heart.—Roy T. Bennett
- Aug 30, 2022 **Prayer:** The most valuable gift you can give someone.—Anon
- Aug 31, 2022 You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.—Jane Goodall

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

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



VBS was great fun! Thanks to all adult leaders that made it possible; Sue Luken, Tari Randall, Charlotte Tierney, Deb Bryant, Pam Guynes, Cindy Booker, Penny Dole, Chris Beiser, Katie Luken Weiss, Sue Rumley, Lauren Dichtl, Kristy Theiss, Cindy Miller, Jennie Marshall, John Smith, Joe Payne AND our youth helpers: Kristin Randall, Kaden Theiss, and Shelby Creager.



We are... **Created TO BE Creative**

SUMMER ART CAMPO



ALL CHURCH FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT, AUGUST 13, at DUSK

Join us for an All Church Family Movie Night on Saturday, August 13 at DUSK. Bring your chairs, pillows, blankets, etc. There will be free drinks and snacks available.
Movie Showing: "Evan Almighty"



BACKPACK BLESSING, SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, during Worship Service

Join us for Backpack Blessing on August 14. Anyone starting any level of school is welcome to bring a backpack or book bag to be blessed during worship service.



BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND TRUSTEES REPORT

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

St Mark's Trustees Corner

Summer is in full swing, and school shopping has begun—the first day of school is just right around the corner. If you haven't had the opportunity yet to check out the cleaned up courtyard and newly painted handicap parking spaces, please do! Thank you, to our Youth Group and Leader Julie Mislansky with the help of Trustee and fellow youth mom, Tonya Leguina and Trustee Marlis Hatton. Our Trustees are very thankful for the extra Helping Hands during the Youth Mission Week!

*Is there another area that needs attention or items you've noticed?
Helping Hands is here!*

This ongoing effort is focused not only on identifying those who can spend time working on areas in and around the church with minor updates, clean ups or necessary tasks, but also to identify the areas needing attention.

***Note on the back of the Attendance/Welcome sheet if you can help OR note an area needing attention.** A St. Mark's Trustee will contact you. We are also keeping the list of items that we are seeking helping hands posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. This list will be updated monthly as items are completed or new needs arise.*

We all can join in to help keep St. Marks beautiful!

As noted in July as part of the Accessibility and Disability Audit completed, we identified a gap in the pavement and threshold at the Symmes Road entrance, making wheelchairs coming in difficult. The pavement in that area will be lifted by A-1 Concrete Leveling in early August and should greatly improve the ability for wheelchair entry into the church.

We continue to work with the architect and the city on possibilities for the bathrooms and are eagerly waiting for further details to share.

*Respectfully Submitted,
In HIS Service
Jennie Marshall*



August Anniversaries

8/11	Devin & Gale Goodman	31
8/14	Gary & Cindy Miller	46
8/14	Randy & Nancy Starkie	51
8/15	James & Melinda Gross	24
8/18	Joe & Linda Payne	38
8/24	Bob & Becky Mendenhall	54
8/28	Mike & Kathy Fitzpatrick	51






August Birthdays

8/01	Dianne Aiken	
8/01	Chelsey Cavender	
8/02	Pat Belarski	
8/02	Peg Wyatt	92
8/03	Lois Hill	91
8/04	Maddie Hensler	
8/06	Cherie Kuertz	
8/06	Ethan Sizemore	16
8/08	Mike Anderson	
8/10	Lora Gugala	
8/10	Janis Kiefer	
8/10	Daniel Mulunda	6
8/12	Donna Hughes	
8/12	Sullivan Saylor	7
8/12	Nancy Starkie	
8/14	Dick Davis	93
8/14	Corey Gross	
8/15	Jenn Specht	
8/16	Jeff Gering	
8/19	Bill Schumacker	
8/22	Nicole Specht	
8/24	Freida Hawkins	98
8/25	Olivia Edmundson	16
8/25	Max Moser	
8/26	Willa Ramsey	
8/27	Debbie Bryant	
8/30	Shelby Cavender	
8/30	Shannon Cooper	
8/30	Joey Specht	
8/31	Betty Stover	92

ST. MARK'S UMC CALENDAR

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crafters Group 10:00am 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CYFM Team 6:45pm ● Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm ● Trustees 7:00pm 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Men's Prayer Group 7:30am 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Narcotics Anon. 7:00pm - 9:00pm ● Small group Bible study 7:00pm - 9:00pm 	5	6
7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Holy Communion 9:30am - 10:30am ● Worship & NO G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am ● Congregation Forum (after worship) 10:45am 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crafters Group 10:00am 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Administrative Board 7:00pm ● Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Men's Prayer Group 7:30am 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Mark's Cares Meeting 6:30pm - 7:30pm ● Narcotics Anon. 7:00pm - 9:00pm 	12	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Church Movie Night (Dusk) 
14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Worship & G.L.O.W. *Youth and Children Led Service 9:30am - 10:30am 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crafters Group 10:00am 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Men's Prayer Group 7:30am 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Narcotics Anon. 7:00pm - 9:00pm 	19	20
21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crafters Group 10:00am 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SPRC meeting 6:30pm - 7:30pm ● Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Men's Prayer Group 7:30am ● Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm - 9:00pm 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Narcotics Anon. 7:00pm - 9:00pm 	26	27
28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crafters Group 10:00am 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Men's Prayer Group 7:30am 			

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





4601 Fairfield Avenue
Fairfield, OH 45014

PRST MKTG
POSTAGE AND
FEES PAID
ST MARK'S UMC
FAIRFIELD, OH
PERMIT NO. 62

SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S AUGUST 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 :

Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday
9:30am - 3:00 pm
Monday - (Office Closed)
Phone (513) 844-1818
www.fairfieldstmarks.com

Worship Service:
Sundays 9:30 am
(*In person & Livestream*)