



SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S

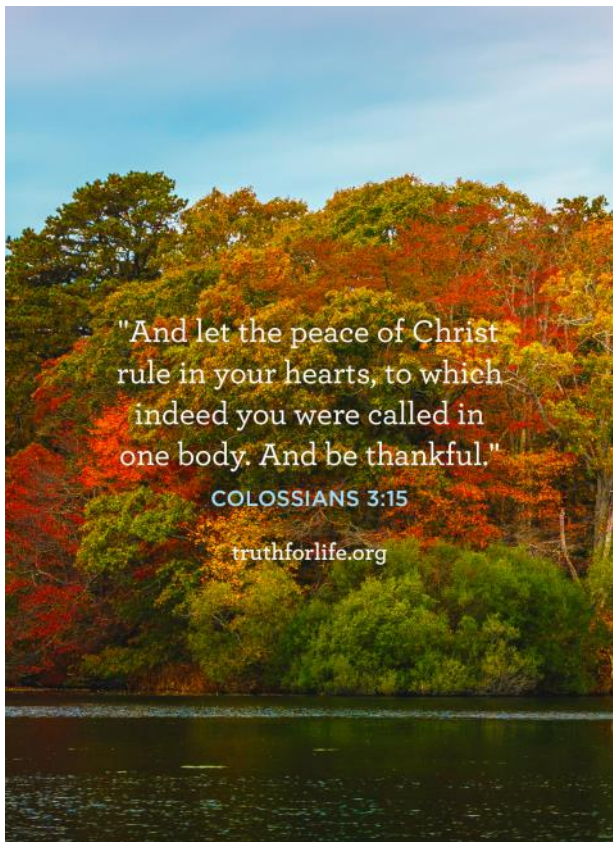
The Mission of St. Mark's United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world...a world of justice, love and peace filled with people growing in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

SEPTEMBER 2022

Thank You...

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the support provided by so many caring individuals in our congregation over the past two months. The kind words, visits, cards, delicious meals, messages and prayers will forever be remembered and treasured.

*God Bless all of you,
Mary Lou Knau*



"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

COLOSSIANS 3:15

truthforlife.org

"YOUR DUE SEASON IS COMING."



Get ready for your due season!

It didn't look like it would ever get better but then suddenly, unexpectedly, out of the ordinary, things turned around.

You may be facing a situation that you've been praying about for a long time. It doesn't look like it will ever change.

You could easily get discouraged and just accept it and think, "I'm never going to get well, the world isn't getting better, or my family is disconnected, or my business isn't going to make it", to name a few examples. NO, you need to get ready, your due season is coming.

Remember the woman who was looking for healing? For 12 years, she was considered an outcast. Due to her condition, she was not allowed into the temple, nor was she allowed to touch another person. She felt cut off from God and from man and the doctors in those days offered no hope, until Jesus had come to her town. *She believed that if she could touch the hem of his garment that she would be healed!* (Mark 5:29). She knew it was her moment, she knew it was her time. It was her Due Season!

**When we live with expectancy and faith,
We get God's attention!**

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOE



Dear St. Mark's Family,

I love the Bible.

The Bible contains some of the loftiest and most beautiful verses in literature. It is life-giving. It is life-affirming. As I read and study this sacred book, I know that millions—perhaps billions—also look to it for inspiration and guidance. It is a gift passed down to us from thousands of years ago, and we should never take that gift for granted.

At the same time, if we are honest, we must admit that some parts of the Bible may seem confusing and others deeply disturbing. If you have ever felt this way, I want to assure you that you are not alone. Many have these same feelings, but most do not care to admit it. What do we do with these confusing and/or disturbing passages? Do we ignore them? Do we take them at face value? Do we randomly pick and choose what we believe? What do we do?

Last Sunday (August 21) I began a new sermon series entitled, "Wrestling With the Bible." During this series, I'm going to give you a few tools that may help you as you seek to understand and even gain life from the whole Bible, and not just the "easy to understand" parts. These tools will not give you all of the answers on a silver platter. They will, however, help you in your wrestling. They will help you in applying your heart and mind to these sacred texts.

I began the series last week, but it's not too late to join us. I hope to see you in person, or view us livestream.

Blessings,
Pastor Joe



WHY REMAIN UMC? FOUR-WEEK STUDY BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8

A heartfelt thank you to all who attended our congregational forum on August 7th, both in-person and online. Almost 70 people joined us! We are pleased with the turnout and the engagement from many of our members.

Beginning September 8, you are invited to attend another educational opportunity. It is a 4-week study called, "The United Methodist Church: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

"This small group study, created by the Alabama-West Florida Reconciling Ministries Team, helps fill the void many were feeling in understanding the situation within the United Methodist Church. Although everyone brings their own biases, the team designed the study to be non-dualistic, truthful, and helpful to anyone trying to understand the political turmoil in the UMC. The people who designed the study are all people who plan to stay in the UMC and hope for a more just, diverse, and inclusive future."

This study has a weekly video component and allows time for discussion. We will offer an in-person option on Thursdays in September- September 8, 15, 22, and 29th- from 1:00-2:15 in the Fellowship Hall. We will also offer a Zoom option on the same Thursday evenings in September from 6:30-7:45. A working camera and microphone on your pc, laptop, tablet, or smart phone are required (most devices have these, with desktop computers being the exception).

Sign up in the narthex or email smumc@fairfieldstmarks.com, specifying your preference of in-person or Zoom.

Please consider joining us for this study (no worries if you cannot attend all 4 sessions) and being a part of this important conversation.

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY
JULIE MISLANSKY



Hope you were able to join us in person or watch online on August 14 as the St. Mark's youth and children led the worship service!...

Molly Robinson shared the words of John Wesley for our benediction, reminding us to "do all the good we can." They did an amazing job and, as always, made me proud to be a part of their lives!



Each youth led a prayer, read scripture, or had a part in sharing the message. Ali Leguina wrote and shared the sermon titled **"He Would Love First."** The theme of the morning focused on friendship and how to be a good friend, especially to those who need a special friend in their lives. Gunnar Marshall, Ethan Sizemore, Kayden Dutey-Anderson, and Jenn Specht all contributed to the message as well. Kaden Theiss, Kallie Theiss, and Lauren Leyrer were our greeters and Lauren also did the artwork for the bulletin cover (see below).

The youth will meet on September 11, after the church picnic, to plan our fall activities. Our first official fall meeting will be September 25 and I am excited to welcome four new members to our group—one seventh grader and three sixth graders.

Looking forward to a fun new year with this group!



Art by:
Lauren Leyrer



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS to the Fairfield Food Pantry in June

We collected 68 pounds of pet food.



We also collected: 18 pounds of personal use items, 27 pounds of garden veggies, and 29.6 pounds of food.

ST. MARK'S CARES

September Mission project is the "Fairfield Food Pantry"

We are collecting cleaning supplies.

Items needed are:

Laundry detergent, Fabric softeners, and Dish washing liquid. Bins will be place in the narthex. Contact Debbie Bryant for details.



Thank you for the incredible amount of school supplies



donated to the Fairfield School District (in July). Your donations were give to the liaison at West Elementary and she was so surprised and appreciative! She works with other schools to share supplies as needs arise. Your donations help students have a successful school year.

We collected 462 items!

SEPTEMBER 23

Serve City Meal opportunity on Sept. 23. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex and on the Facebook Community page. The theme will be "Breakfast". See Charlotte Tierney for details.



SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 8

NAMI 5K WALK starting at 8:30am to 12pm at the Fitton Center for Creative Arts located at 101 S. Monument Ave.

Register online at namiwalks.org

Search for St. Marks UMC. The Nami mission is to open up doors for everyone from every walk of life to have access to the Mental Health Resources and community they deserve. See Tari for details. #Together4MH



There were 25 people who had warm bellies and a change of clothing on July 29. Wayne and Tari Randall volunteered to help cook and serve on the "streets of Cincinnati" with the Broken Bus that day.

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 13

Family Promise Gala

More information coming soon!



"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"—Galatians 6:9

FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS



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>

RUTH'S CIRCLE—SEPTMEBER 23, FRIDAY at 1PM

The Ruth's Circle is starting back up after our summer break. The next meeting is Friday, September 23 at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. Note this is a week LATER than our usual meeting date.

This change is only for the month of September. After September, we will go back to our usual meeting date which is the 3rd Friday of each month

Ruth's Circle is open to all women of St Mark's and we would love to have you join us.

Our meetings consist of a short business meeting, devotion, and program and usually last 1 to 2 hours.



If you have any questions, please contact one of our co-leaders:
Pam Guynes (513-779-9162) or email at Pamguynes2@gmail.com
Charlene Miller (513-844-6793) or email at chardarmiller@gmail.com



MUSIC MINISTRY



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC CHRIS BEISER

*Fall. It's the due season...
what does that mean?*

I wondered about that myself until I was directed to listen to an inspiring sermon where we are encouraged to make the move now. If there is a decision to be made, make it. If there is a problem that needs solving, find the solution. If there is an idea, now is the time to act.

How does that affect me at St. Mark's and my position as Director of Music?

My mind has been reeling with ideas of how to create music in the upcoming fall months.

First...Everyone, both congregation and chancel choir, need to be ready for change. Music is beautiful in a church service sung simply or complex, with 10 or 30 members. The words, the heartfelt voices, the melodies, are all brought together for one reason...to bring praise and honor to our Lord. When we succeed in doing that, the music is a blessing to our ears, heart, and soul.



Sue and I have met many talented musicians in our years of music ministry together. We have been honored to teach, perform, and learn from many amazing artists that we call our friends. The many talents that they possess have blessed Sue and I again and again, their gifts needs to be shared with all of you. I am making it a goal to reintroduce you, as well as have you meet for the first time our group of talented Christian friends.



Handbells will begin rehearsals soon. Continue to watch the bulletin for a starting date. I want those first bell rehearsals to be a time for any potential new ringers to attend rehearsals and experience hands on the

techniques of ringing, how you follow the music, and most importantly the enjoyment that you'll have being a part of this ministry.

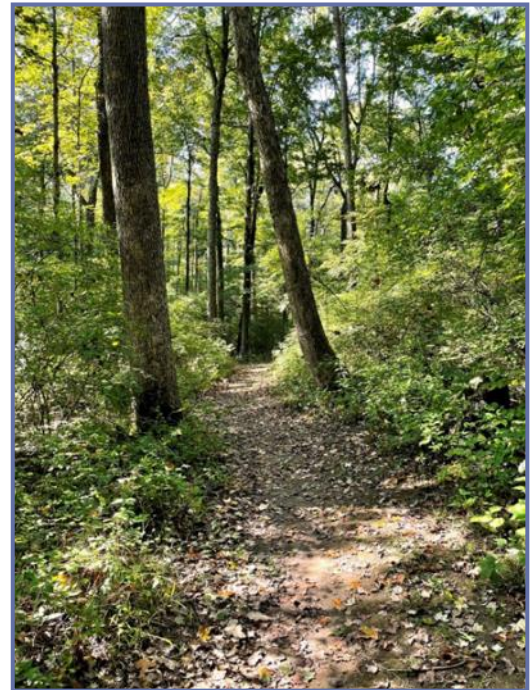
I am thinking of ways to take my gifts, my passions, and blend them all together in ways to work within the music ministry this fall, carry it into the holiday season and 2023. As I work on how to bring these ideas to fruition, I'll certainly keep you posted on what this crazy mind is thinking up next!

As you have done so faithfully in the past, I ask you to continue to pray for the Music Ministry as the programs kick into gear.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven.

POEM WRITTEN BY LINDA PAYNE



SIT STILL MY HEART

Sit still my heart, do not raise your dust...

Rabindranath Tagore

Sit still, my heart

do not raise your dust
in agitated whirlwinds.

Surrender to the Sacred for
the earth beneath your feet is holy.

Let awareness awaken
to the still small Voice
speaking, singing, sighing
like wind through the trees
with tender invitation to

allow Spirit's presence
to wash over you like gently falling rain.

Embrace the moment
enveloped in Eternity's Arms,
abiding in God's presence.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

GALE GOODMAN, FINANCE CHAIR



Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do,
work at it with
all your heart,
as working for the Lord,
not for human masters.

Greetings St. Mark's Family,

As we noted last month, June's giving was the lowest since May, 2018. We did rebound a bit in July, receiving \$19,100 for the month. Even with the lower amounts received in June and July, year-to-date giving still reflects a 3% increase over the same period last year.

Lower giving coupled with increased expenses, the cash position of the Church was uncomfortably low. We were able to make the loan payment to the Credit Union therefore, bringing our amount owed to \$41,800. All expenses have been paid for the month. However, we were not able to pay our apportionments for the month of July. This marks the first time in quite awhile that we have not been able to make that payment. With the summer traveling season drawing to a close in August and September, we are expecting the cash position of the Church to rebound and become stronger.

As many of you know, Tim and Julie have relocated to Dayton. Therefore, Tim has asked that we replace him as Treasurer of St. Mark's. He has graciously given us several months' notice to the end of his tenure. So, it is with a great amount of gratitude and respect that we say a "so long", never a good bye, to Tim. He has brought a great amount of knowledge and understanding to this position and his position as Finance Committee Chair. I, for one, will miss his expertise, dedication, and sense of humor. *Thank you does not begin to express what he has brought to this position and to St. Mark's.*



It is at this time, that I would like to welcome Bill and Lynne Schumacker as our new Treasurer Team. Tim has met with them and started the training process to transition the position to them. We are excited to have both of them working on this position. Tim will still be working closely with Bill and Lynne during this transition. Tim did make sure that he gave a cellphone number to Bill and Lynne in the event that they had any questions. *(I just hope it was his number)*. Please take a moment when you see Tim to thank him for his service to St. Mark's, as well as, welcoming Bill and Lynne into their new positions.

As always, if you have any questions regarding the finances of St. Mark's, please feel free to reach out to ask myself or Tim.

Yours in Christ,
Gale Goodman, Finance Chair
Tim Mislansky, Treasurer



PICK ME UP MOMENTS — SEPTEMBER

COMPILED BY CAROL PITTMAN

"In Honor of Miracles and Breakthrough's"

- Sept 01 Life is a balance of holding on and letting go...—Rumi
- Sept 02 Prayer is the most important conversation of your day. Take it to God before you take it to anyone else.—Anon
- Sept 03 Kindness is more than deeds. It's an attitude, an expression, a look, a touch.
It's anything that lifts another person.—Plato
- Sept 04 Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.—Psalm 119:105
- Sept 05 Nothing will work unless you do.—Maya Angelou
- Sept 06 Memory is a way of holding on to the things you love, the things you are, the time you never want to lose.
—Kevin Arnold
- Sept 07 Sometimes we don't need advice, we just need someone to listen.—Anon
- Sept 08 Sometimes silence is a really good answer.—Anon
- Sept 09 God has both an all seeing eye and all-forgiving heart.—Anon
- Sept 10 We must allow the Word of God to correct us the same way we allow it to encourage us.—Anon
- Sept 11 I never have to feel lonely, for God is always with me.—Matthew 28:20
- Sept 12 Be yourself no matter what other people say. God made you the way you are for a reason.
Besides, an original is always worth more than a copy!—Anon
- Sept 13 A gentle response diffuses anger.—Proverbs 15:1
- Sept 14 God has no phone but I talk to Him. God has no Facebook but He's still my friend.
God has no Twitter but I still follow Him.—Anon
- Sept 15 The world tells us to seek success, power, and money; God tells us to seek humility, service, and love.—Pope Francis
- Sept 16 When you learn to accept instead of expect, you will have fewer disappointments.—Anon
- Sept 17 The life in front of you is way more important than the life behind you.—Joel Osteen
- Sept 18 You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail.—Proverbs 19:21
- Sept 19 May your life preach more loudly than your lips.—William Ellery Channing
- Sept 20 Feed your faith and your fears will starve to death.—Anon
- Sept 21 Everyone doesn't face the same problems in life, but we can all have the same solution, His name is Jesus!—Anon
- Sept 22 Today, I want to thank God for the gift of life. No complaints. No requests. Just thankful to be alive.—Anon
- Sept 23 The greatest act of faith some days is to simply get up and face another day.—Amy Gatliff
- Sept 24 One if the best gifts we can give ourselves is time alone with God.—Joyce Meyer
- Sept 25 Lord, when doubts fill my mind, when my heart is in turmoil, quiet me and give me renewed hope and cheer.
—Psalm 94:19
- Sept 26 There is no "right time" there is just time and what you choose to do with it.—Racheal Wolchin
- Sept 27 Beauty catches the attention, but character catches the heart.—Anon
- Sept 28 Every storm in your life is followed by a rainbow.—Doreen Virtue
- Sept 29 May the gift of love, the gift of peace, the gift of hope, the gift of happiness and the gift of God's blessings
be yours today and always.—Anon
- Sept 30 Stay true to your convictions.—Matthew 7:13**



**One man with conviction will overwhelm a hundred
who have only opinions. —Winston Churchill**

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

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

Back to School Sunday (Blessing of the Backpack)



The New Fall Curriculum Year begins September 11, 2022

This is going to be a big day for families at St. Mark's

Sunday Morning G.L.O.W. begins our new fall curriculum on this day.

After church, we will celebrate with a church wide picnic

Hamburgers, Hot dogs, Pasta salad, baked beans, chips along with dessert and drinks will be served outside at our picnic shelter. See you there!



Join us at the **Church Picnic!**



ALSO, we will also begin the fall series of GLOW @ Night that evening
 Any students grades (K-5) are welcome to join us for fun and Bible study from **5-7PM**.

OTHER IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:



Third Grade Bible Sunday

October 9
 (during worship)



Fall Fest/Trunk or Treat
October 23, Sunday
4:30—6:00pm



Advent Celebration
November 27, Sunday
6:00—7:30pm



BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND TRUSTEES CORNER

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

St Mark's Trustees Corner by Jennie Marshall

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 and In HIS Service,



September Anniversaries

| | | |
|------|------------------------|----|
| 9/01 | Mark & Jenni Hensler | 38 |
| 9/02 | John & Peggy Smith | 45 |
| 9/03 | Dave & Cindy Booker | 34 |
| 9/04 | Steve & Kym Nguyen | 29 |
| 9/10 | Ben & Heather Chambers | 17 |
| 9/11 | Larry & Cheryl Creach | 51 |
| 9/14 | Don & Carol Ault | 59 |
| 9/16 | Kraig & Vicki Cavender | 33 |
| 9/16 | Denny & Sue Mullen | 61 |
| 9/20 | Roy & Helen Brown | 14 |
| 9/20 | Mark & Sue Luken | 36 |
| 9/29 | Ron & Becky Hamblin | 43 |





September Birthdays

| | | |
|------|-------------------|----|
| 9/02 | Dee Dee Edmundson | |
| 9/02 | Missy LaMar | |
| 9/02 | Alethea LaMar | |
| 9/02 | Suzan Stracke | |
| 9/04 | Ruth Ritenbaugh | |
| 9/06 | Carol Ault | |
| 9/06 | Andy Shellman | |
| 9/07 | Chelsea Menke | |
| 9/08 | Pam Guynes | |
| 9/09 | Tari Randall | |
| 9/10 | Sam Moser | |
| 9/10 | Carol Pittman | |
| 9/10 | Parker Randall | 12 |
| 9/12 | Patty Coyle | 88 |
| 9/12 | Edith Davis | 90 |
| 9/14 | Mindy Kuertz | |
| 9/15 | Linda Fenzel | |
| 9/15 | Jennie Marshall | |
| 9/19 | James Robinson | 5 |
| 9/20 | Ruth Stanifer | |
| 9/26 | Sue Luken | |
| 9/27 | Hannah Hensler | |
| 9/28 | Dale Addis | 87 |



ST. MARK'S UMC CALENDAR

September 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  | 1 ● Book Club 1:00pm - 2:00pm ● Narcotics Anon. 7:00pm - 9:00pm ● Small group Bible study 7:00pm - 9:00pm | 2 | 3 |
| 4 ● Holy Communion 9:30am - 10:30am ● Worship & NO G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am | 5 Labor Day ● Holiday (Offices Closed) ● Crafters Group 10:00am | 6 ● CYFM Team 6:45pm ● Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm ● Trustees 7:00pm | 7 ● Men's Prayer Group 7:30am ● Bible Study 2:00pm - 3:00pm ● Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm - 9:00pm | 8 ● Nurture & Care Meeting 11:00am - 12:00pm ● Narcotics Anon. 7:00pm - 9:00pm | 9 | 10 |
| 11 ● Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am ● All Church Picnic 11:00am ● Children/Family New Curriculum year begins 12:00pm ● GLOW@Nite 5:00pm - 7:00pm | 12 ● Crafters Group 10:00am ● Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - 8:00pm | 13 ● Administrative Board 7:00pm ● Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm | 14 ● Men's Prayer Group 7:30am ● Bible Study 2:00pm - 3:00pm ● Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm - 9:00pm | 15 ● Narcotics Anon. 7:00pm - 9:00pm | 16 | 17 ● BBBS 5K Walk/Run 8:30am |
| 18 ● Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am | 19 ● Crafters Group 10:00am ● Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - 8:00pm | 20 ● Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm | 21 ● Men's Prayer Group 7:30am ● Bible Study 2:00pm - 3:00pm ● Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm - 9:00pm | 22 ● Narcotics Anon. 7:00pm - 9:00pm | 23 ● Serve City Meal opportunity ● Ruth's Circle 1:00pm - 3:00pm | 24 |
| 25 ● Worship & G.L.O.W. 9:30am - 10:30am ● Youth Meeting (official) 5:00pm | 26 ● Crafters Group 10:00am ● Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm - 8:00pm | 27 ● SPRC meeting 6:30pm - 7:30pm ● Boy Scouts Tr. 960 7:00pm - 8:30pm | 28 ● Men's Prayer Group 7:30am ● Bible Study 2:00pm - 3:00pm ● Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm - 9:00pm | 29 ● Narcotics Anon. 7:00pm - 9:00pm | 30 | |

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





4601 Fairfield Avenue
Fairfield, OH 45014

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

SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S SEPTEMBER 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*)