



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.

OCTOBER 2022

Thank You...

What's Inside:

Pastor's Letter	pg 2
Youth Group Happenings	pg 3
Missions and Outreach	pg 4
Fellowship and Gatherings	pg 5
Music Ministry	pg 6
Special Poems by Linda Payne	pg 6
Financial Update	pg 7
Pick Me Up Moments	pg 8
Children's Ministry G.L.O.W.	pg 9
Birthdays and Anniversaries	pg 10
Trustees Corner	pg 11

On behalf of our son Doug, and as parents, we thank Pastor Joe and St. Mark's congregation for your prayers and expressions of care during his long and difficult hospital stay. Doug is now at home and slowly gaining back mobility skills. Thank you for continuing to be our caring church family through these many years.
—Pastor Bob and Judy Klingel

Dear St. Mark's Family, I cannot express how grateful my family and I were for the outpouring of love and support when my mother, Rose Townsend, passed away. We received countless cards and text messages of support, floral arrangements, plants, and food. We appreciate each gift as they meant so much to me. We appreciated those of you who came to the funeral. I cannot thank the ladies enough who provided my family and friends a meal after the funeral service. It gave all of us and our extended family from out of town a chance to visit and catch up during this time. I am truly thankful for all of you. Thank you—Gale Goodman and Family

With deep gratitude, thank you All so very much for the sympathy cards, emails, flowers, and phone calls. I truly appreciated the warm words of comfort, thoughts and prayers. You are all so kind and caring!
—Love, Lyn Bucalo and Family

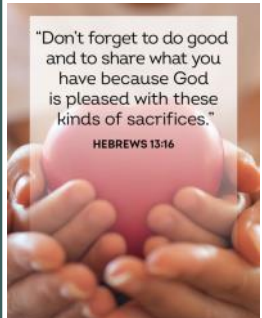
Dear St. Mark's UMC, Thank you so much for the donation drive you did for the Caring Closet in August! We cannot do what we do without you! Our deepest gratitude to all of you. —Tammy at The Caring Closet

Dear St. Mark's Family, Thanks to all who sent me beautiful birthday cards. A special "thank you" to the Craft Ladies Group, who visited me bearing a cake and gifts. What a great surprise! I really, really enjoyed the day.
—Love, Freida Hawkins



Four things God wants you to remember when life is hard:

- 1 Remember** that your character should always be stronger than your circumstances.
- 2 Remember** that your struggles always lead to strength.
- 3 Remember** that God's timing is always perfect.
- 4 Remember** that God will never leave your side!



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOE



Dear St. Mark's Family,

Happy October! It's autumn, which means it's time for sweaters, falling leaves, Fall Festival, all things pumpkin spice, and reading the Bible. That's right. Of course, there is never a bad time to read the Bible, but as I shared in my sermon on September 26, beginning this fall, I'm inviting you to join me in reading the Bible for all its worth.

A couple of sharp listeners pointed out that I only shared four tips. And by golly, they were right! It was a case of looking up and back down to my notes and skipping number three. Oops! So here are all five:

First, if you're going to read the Bible, set a goal. One possible goal is to read one of the four Gospels by the end of this year. You pick which one. Mark is the shortest, John is the longest and deepest spiritually, and Matthew & Luke are in between. It might be nice to read Matthew or Luke this Advent, since those two tell stories of Jesus' birth. But, it's up to you.

Second, get a good study Bible. Consider it an early Christmas present to yourself. A study Bible has notes at the bottom of the page that aids in understanding the biblical text. It helps to make sense of the Bible. Four suggestions for good study Bibles are "The Access Bible." "The Disciple's Study Bible." And the more "scholarly" "Oxford Annotated Bible" and "The New Interpreters Bible."

Third (this is the one I skipped!), take notes. Bibles are meant to be used, so don't be afraid to write in it. Perhaps you could buy a little journal that you keep with your bible if you'd like to write longer entries.

Fourth, at times you may want to read a text three times. First time make it a casual reading. Second time, read slowly and look for details you may have missed. Third, read again, prayerfully.

And fifth, as you read, think on these questions: What does this reveal to me about God? What does this reveal to me about human beings? And, What does this reveal to me about the relationship between God and human beings (including you!)?

All right. So trying these five things, I think you'll find you can read the Bible for all it's worth. And why do we do this? *John tells us: "... these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."*
—John 20:31.

Amen!

Blessings,

Pastor Joe



YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY
JULIE MISLANSKY



We have kicked-off a new school year which means re-setting the calendar for our youth group as well!

We will be meeting two Sundays a month, from 2:00—4:00pm, and we will meet another time during the month (sometimes two) for a service project and/or a *fun night out.* These dates will vary.

Any youth in sixth grade and up is welcome to join us—and we want you there! I have contacted all the “new” youth that I am aware of. If I’ve inadvertently missed your child, please contact me!

Julie Mislansky at email: knauffjj@icloud.com
or phone: (513)505-4061

Dates for the remaining of 2022:

October 16 and 23 Fall Festival

November 6 and 20

December 4 and 18



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Thank you for donations to the Caring Closet!

St. Mark's congregation graciously donated 45 personal hygiene items to the Caring Closet in the month of August as our Mission Project.



The Caring closet is a non-profit organization 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.

Thank you to the Cooks!

Hats off to the cooks in our congregation for whipping up "breakfast themed" meals for Serve City in September. We had 12 items that served 30 people. The residents of Serve City are always so appreciative for those that provide a meal. Thank you!



October 10, Monday, Shared Harvest

We are looking for 10 volunteers that are needed to help support the Shared Harvest. The group will be packing Senior boxes beginning at 12:30—2:30PM. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those available. Contact Debbie Bryant for more information.

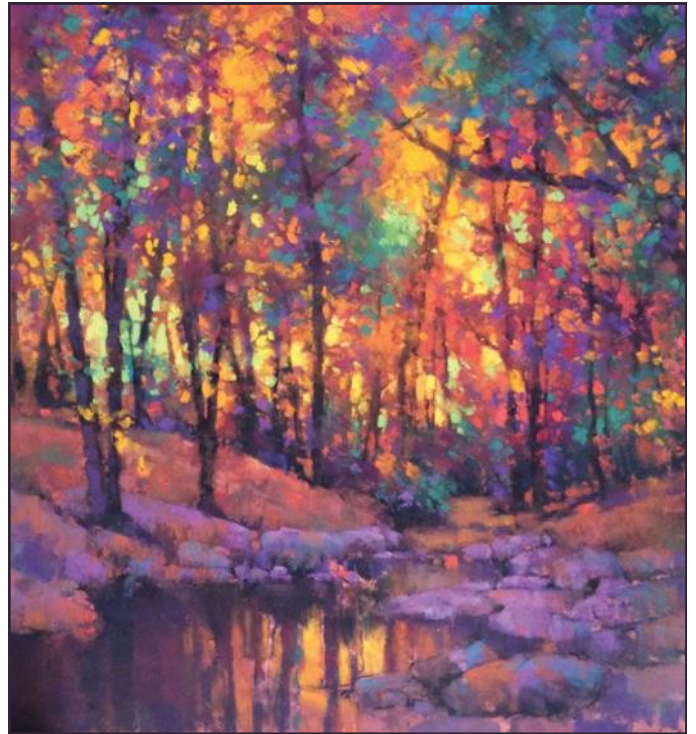


October 13, Family Promise Gala!

Family Promise of Butler County announces
"A Special Black & White Event"



Keeping the Promise because every child deserves a home. This event is being held at The Courtyard by Marriott hotel at 1 Riverfront Plaza in Hamilton on Thursday, October 13, 6-8PM. St. Mark's will have a table again this year. See Kym Nguyen for details!



MATTHEW 25 "SERVE SAT." November 19

There is another volunteer opportunity at Matthew 25 Ministries
November 19, Saturday
from 9:00—11:00am.

All ages and abilities are welcomed! We never know what the task will be, but it usually involves sorting of items.

For questions contact Lynne Schumacker. Also, there is a sign-up list in the Narthex.



October Missions Project

We will be having our annual coat drive in October! We will be collecting new or gently used coats, jackets, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, and scarves for men, women and children. Donations bins will be in the Narthex.

Share the Warmth!

KEEP OUR COMMUNITY WARM THIS WINTER



FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS

2022 BIG BROTHER/BIG SISTER RUN 4 KIDS 5K WALK

Congratulations to the St. Mark's team that supported the 2022 BBBS Run4Kids 5K walk on September 17. There were 7 members of our congregation and additional family members came out and walked to support this event. **St. Mark's team won another trophy** for the biggest group for 2 years in a row and Debbie Bryant won a pair of airbuds! Holla!



**DID YOU MISS
THE FIRST 5K OR
ARE READY TO
PARTICIPATE IN
ANOTHER?**

**HERE'S YOUR
CHANCE...NAMI 5K**



NAMI 5K WALK—OCTOBER 8

NAMI 5K WALK starting 8:30am to 12:00pm

Fitton Center for Creative Arts

101 S. Monument Avenue

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 Randall* for details.

#Together4MH



nami
National Alliance on Mental Illness

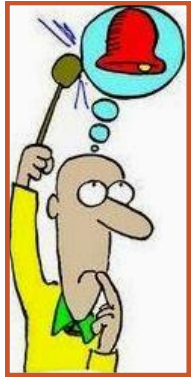
**Butler
County**

MUSIC MINISTRY



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC CHRIS BEISER

As fall kicks into high gear around St. Mark's, the Music Ministry is heading into the season full force as well!



So the handbell choir director passed out the music to his players and asked if any of them had heard the song before, one of the members looked at it and said it doesn't ring a bell.

Handbell choir will begin on Wednesday October 5 from 6:00-7:00 pm. The goal will be to try and have a special to play each month, the date will be determined by the members once a song is ready. This is a perfect time for anyone interested in ringing to give it a try!

Question: How long does it take for a church choir director to screw in a lightbulb?

Answer: Nobody knows, no-one is ever watching him!

"BA DUM TSSSS!"



The Chancel Choir is preparing anthems to sing every other Sunday. Mark Engel will be a guest trumpeter the first Sunday of October. He will accompany the choir for a special song that morning as well as provide special music during communion.

Plans are being made for a Christmas cantata presentation! Once the cantata and date have been chosen, I will announce when rehearsals will begin for anyone interested in joining us to sing.

If you've noticed Sue playing the piano on the floor it's because the sanctuary's grand piano has been giving us some problems by not wanting to work sometimes. Sue will be right in the middle of a song and the grand piano just decides to stop! Piano techs have been called in and we're trying to identify the problem. I'm so thankful we have the upright piano that Sue can continue to use during this time. So I close with this...



One Sunday morning a church choir member saw the accompanist banging their head on the keys of the piano. He walked up and asked, "What are you doing? Are you ok?" The accompanist said, "Yes I'm fine, I'm just trying to play by ear!"

POEM WRITTEN BY LINDA PAYNE

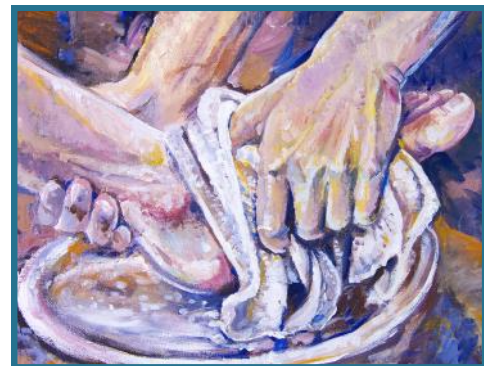
WITHIN THE FATHER'S HOUSE

(Based on John 14:2)

Within the Father's house there is a place,
a room prepared for each and every one.
No matter their beliefs, their gender, race
within the Father's house there is a place.
The Father's arms are open to embrace
each hurting, seeking, doubting, outcast one
for in the Father's house there is a place,
a room prepared for each and every one.

A life poured out in love's the only key
to enter in this house of many rooms.
True hearts are windows open wide to see
a life poured out in love's the only key
to make all fear, ill-will, and sorrow flee
and fill the house with charity's sweet blooms.
A life poured out in love's the only key
to enter in this house of many rooms.

A feast has been prepared where all can eat
in loving fellowship, a family
that shares in love and casts off proud conceit.
A feast has been prepared where all can eat
and humbly we will wash each other's feet.
So let us join together, thankfully!
This feast has been prepared where all can eat
enjoying fellowship, a family.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

GALE GOODMAN, FINANCE CHAIR

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Last month, I mentioned that giving had decreased through the summer months. Currently giving, has been somewhat lower than anticipated on a weekly basis through September. We have been able to keep the expenses paid as well as the loan payments have continued to be made.

However, I am sorry to say that the apportionments were not paid in July and August. We are hopeful that we will be able to make a payment in September. At the end of August, we had \$51,600 on deposit at the Credit Union. The loan balance at the Credit Union stands at \$40,796.

Training for Bill and Lynne Schumacker is continuing. We appreciate the time Tim Mislansky is spending with Bill and Lynne.

As always, if you have questions regarding the finances of St. Mark's, please feel free to reach out to me. If I do not have an answer for you, I will certainly seek one out.

Yours in Christ,

Gale Goodman, Finance Chair



Ephesians 3:20

May God bless you
far more abundantly
than all you can
ever ask or think!



PICK ME UP MOMENTS — SEPTEMBER

COMPILED BY CAROL PITTMAN

"In Honor of your Super powers!"

- Oct. 01 With God I can find new strength and joy for my challenges.—Anon
- Oct. 02 I choose to love the Lord my God, obey Him, and commit myself firmly to Him. He is the key to my life.
—Deuteronomy 30:19-20
- Oct. 03 'GRACE' is the voice that calls us to change and then gives us the power to pull it off.—Max Lucado
- Oct. 04 Once we learn to pray with our heart, and not our lips; we truly begin to have a conversation with God.—Anon
- Oct. 05 The things with the greatest value... 'PEACE', laughter, joy, love...cost nothing. —Jane Lee Logan
- Oct. 06 When gratitude becomes you default setting, life changes.—Nancy Leigh Demoss
- Oct. 07 Life is all about taking chances, trusting your feelings, finding happiness, appreciating memories and learning from the past.—Aful Purohit
- Oct. 08 Everything starts from prayer.—Mother Teresa
- Oct. 09 The times when our hearts are weary and our strength fades, God carries us through.—Isaiah 46:4
- Oct. 10 God's delays are not God's denial.—Robert H. Schuller
- Oct. 11 God judges not so much the outside as He does the inside. He looks to the motives, thoughts, and intents of your heart.—Billy Graham
- Oct. 12 Don't bother to give God instructions; just report for duty.—Corrie ten Boom
- Oct. 13 Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.—Robert Collier
- Oct. 14 Whenever you do not understand what's happening in your life, just close your eyes, take a deep breath and say "God I know it's your plan. Just help me through it."—Alberto Casing
- Oct. 15 Jesus didn't have to agree with people to be kind to them.—Toby McKeehan
- Oct. 16 Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.—Exodus 4:29
- Oct. 17 I trust God with my life, after all, He gave it to me.—Anon
- Oct. 18 Put God in the driver's seat of your life because anything under His control will never be out of control.—Anon
- Oct. 19 Go the extra mile. It's never crowded there.—Dr. Wayne D. Dyer
- Oct. 20 God is constantly at work in our lives.—Anon
- Oct. 21 Let God's promises shine on your problems.—Corrie ten Boom
- Oct. 22 Positivity is a super power.—Anon
- Oct. 23 Keep hoping. Keep dreaming. You are not done yet. And neither is the God who wildly loves you and will see you through to the end.
—Philippians 1:6
- Oct. 24 Feeling good about ourselves is essential in our being able to love others.—Fred Rogers
- Oct. 25 If we are true to ourselves, we cannot be false to anyone.—William Shakespeare
- Oct. 26 People look at outward appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart.—I Samuel 16:7
- Oct. 27 God is everywhere! Just look around—you can't miss Him!—Anon
- Oct. 28 The difference between the impossible and the possible lie in a person's determination.—Tommy LaSorda
- Oct. 29 I will choose to find 'JOY' in the journey that God has set before me.—Anon
- Oct. 30 Having 'HOPE' will give you courage.—Job 18:11
- Oct. 31 Don't miss out on something that could be amazing just because it could also be difficult.—Anon



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

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

October 9, Third Grade Bible Sunday (during worship)

We will celebrate all Third Grade Children that have a connection to St. Mark's with the presentation of a personalized Bible.

This milestone event is a special time for students and for our church members as they show the third graders how important they are in the life of our Church.

If you have a student (child, grandchild or other third grade family member) that would like to receive their bible, please contact Peggy Smith, Sue Luken, or call Lyn at the church with the student's name.



SAVE THE DATE:
Advent Celebration
November 27, Sunday
5:30 — 7:00pm
POTLUCK AND PROGRAM



FALL FEST/TRUNK or TREAT **OCTOBER 23, SUNDAY, 4:30 — 6:00pm**

We are planning a bigger and more exciting Fall Fest this year! There will be games, trunk or treating, and the music dept. is planning to have an awesome Halloween Karaoke/Dance party at the picnic shelter! Please consider joining the fun by decorating your car for trunk or treating, dressing up and handing out candy or just hanging out with your friends here at the party. If you would like to donate candy, there will be a box in the kitchen marked Fall Fest. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Smith or Sue Luken.



BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, OTHER GATHERINGS

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

October Birthdays

10/01	Cheryl Klug	
10/02	Sam Davis	
10/03	Jack Nguyen	
10/03	Richard Shaw	
10/03	Linda Thomas	
10/04	Rich Turner	
10/05	Gale Goodman	
10/09	Sheila Boggs	
10/09	Roy Brown	
10/09	Don Menke	
10/11	Allison Balchunas	
10/15	Sue Mullen	
10/16	Heather Chambers	
10/16	Hugh Guynes	
10/17	Don Ault	
10/17	Larry Creach	
10/17	Tonya Leguina	
10/20	Anne Hennen	
10/21	Joe Mislansky	
10/22	Jenni Hensler	
10/25	Tim Dutey	
10/25	Eleanor McCollum	98
10/27	Marty Kubik	
10/30	Maxine Craig	
10/30	John Smith	

RUTH'S CIRCLE

The next meeting is Friday, October 21
at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall.

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 which typically lasts 1- 2 hours.

For questions, contact one of our Co-leaders:

Pam Guynes at

(513) 779-9162 or email at Pamguynes2@gmail.com

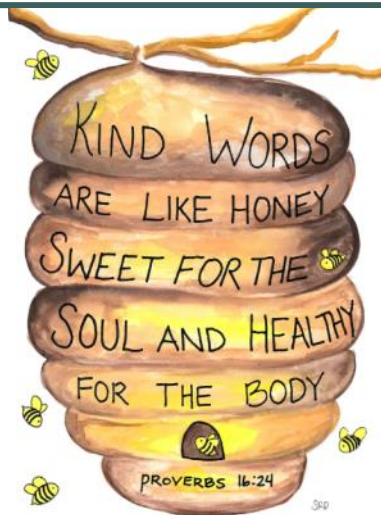
Charlene Miller at

(513) 844-6793 or email at chardarmiller@gmail.com



October Anniversaries

10/05	Wade & Nancy Lewis	61
10/11	Gil & Penny Dole	14
10/15	Kyle & Alex Robinson	11
10/23	Brian & Marla George	23
10/23	John & Katie Meyer	12



NURTURE & CARE MEAL OPPORUNITY

One of the functions of the Nurture & Care Committee is to coordinate meals for those in our congregation, who have recently been discharged from the hospital or someone who is very ill. You would only be asked to do this occasionally and someone from our committee would call when the meal is needed. If you would be willing to cook a meal or to go by a restaurant to pick up a meal for someone in need, please let us know by making a note on the back of your Attendance/welcome sheet, or by signing the list at the Welcome area in Narthex, or by contacting Pam Guynes.

Chairman of Nurture & Care Committee.

Pam Guynes (513) 779-9162

Email: Pamguynes2@gmail.com



ST. MARK'S TRUSTEES CORNER

LETTER FROM TRUSTEES CHAIR, JENNIE MARSHALL

OCTOBER 30, SUNDAY, AFTER WORSHIP, CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our Presiding Elder and guest preacher for the day will be the Rev. Patricia Matthews. All are welcome to attend; voting privileges are granted to professing members of St. Mark's UMC in attendance at the meeting. *Also on the agenda will be the following from Trustees:*

The Board of Trustees will bring forward recommendations to our Church Conference on Sunday, October 30.

The first item will be a recommendation to sell the half-acre lot located at 4660 Anthony Wayne Ave., Fairfield, OH (see photo). As background, St. Mark's UMC purchased the lot in May of 1996 with the intention for future growth and expansion, especially parking. We currently have 152 parking spaces and no foreseeable need to add any more. Since that time, we have been doing almost nothing with the lot except to mow it. The value of the lot, per Butler County Auditor site, is \$37,830.

St. Mark's UMC Trustees intend to use the proceeds of this potential sale of property to assist us in funding upcoming major repairs and maintenance projects, with the primary focus on updating the church bathrooms (become ADA compliant), replacing the aging roof, and updating the parsonage bathrooms.

The second recommendation (if the first is approved) is to approve the names of the individuals who will officially sign paperwork in the sale (Chair of Trustee and one other individual).



SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 5, SATURDAY ALL CHURCH FALL WORKDAY

Saturday November 5, 2022 9am till...

Come one, come all, we will be inside and out (weather pending), cleaning up and doing small projects. Mark your calendars and join in, word is, Pastor Joe will provide the donuts. If you have areas that have caught your attention, consider writing on the back of the Attendance/welcome sheet as well as signing up (*so we know how many donuts to get*).

Your Helping Hands help keep our church beautiful.
Contact Jennie Marshall with questions.



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 OCTOBER 2022

IN THIS
World
YOU WILL
HAVE
Trouble.
BUT TAKE *heart!*
I HAVE *overcome*
THE WORLD
—John 16:33



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

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)