



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.

NOVEMBER 2022

Thank You...

Dear Pastor Joe, Church Staff & Members,

I have wanted to send this note but don't have the adequate words to express my appreciation for all of the comfort and kindness shown to our family during this very difficult time. Having Rick's service in our church with everyone's support meant a great deal to all of us! Pastor Joe was so accommodating & genuinely cared! Pam & Cindy were wonderful & all of the care committee were wonderful! The meal was excellent! Thanks for all of the hard work! Thank you all for the many prayers, visits, gifts, cards & concerns.

Thanks for your kindness and thoughtfulness. Hope you know how very much you are appreciated and what a difference you all make.

*Love in Christ,
Ferrill Broshear & Family*



Fairfield Food Pantry Donations!

We collected 61 items donated by the congregation to help families in need of cleaning supplies. Thank you.



In the October Newsletter...

Freida Hawkins shared how much she enjoyed her day with a birthday cake, gifts, cards and a surprise visit from the Craft Ladies.

(Lyn apologizes for the missing photo that was to be included in that "thank you" note)

*The picture is so cute!
Hope everyone enjoys...*



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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOE



*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it,— Psalm 24:1, KJV*

Dear St. Mark's Church Family,

Happy November, the month we set aside to give thanks for all of our blessings.

I am pleased to report that this year St Mark's Church donated to the Fairfield Food Pantry and Serve City a total of 1008 pounds of fresh vegetables from our garden! It's amazing what this little plot of land provided this year. We have been richly blessed in being able to provide fresh garden produce for our neighbors.



Of course, you and I know our blessings flow not only from our garden, but from so many other St. Mark's ministries. Blessings from our music, children, and youth ministries, our Bible Studies and fellowship groups, and of course through worshiping together. Whether we join with one another in person or via Livestream, we are richly blessed and have much to be thankful for.

So, how do we give thanks for our many blessings? We can give thanks by giving back. Our finance team is challenging us to finish the year on strong financial footing (see pg. 7). This might seem daunting, but I believe that with God and St. Mark's folks, all things are possible. I believe that you and I can and will finish our year with an abundant harvest, because St. Mark's people are a generous and giving people.

But, we can't just sit back and let it happen on its own. This is a challenge for all of us. So, pray and ask God what you might give, knowing that you are not alone, and that all that we have comes from God anyway.

I thank you for the blessings of serving as

Your pastor,
Joe

*Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.*

*All the world is God's own field,
fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.*

*For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offenses purge away,
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.*

*Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.*

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come!"
Henry Alford



YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY
JULIE MISLANSKY



We are excited to welcome four new members this year!

Three youth have “aged in” and are just joining us, the fourth is a friend of one of our long-time youth group members. We had a fun first meeting together; we started a new bible study and had a scavenger hunt throughout the church.



THANKS
FOR
BEING
AWESOME



November Meeting Dates:

Sunday, November 6th: 2:00-4:00pm

Sunday, November 20th: Youth will meet at 4:00pm and then help with the “Hanging of the Greens” at 5:00pm

Sunday, November 27th: 5:30pm, A Church wide Advent Celebration, all are welcome to join this special service as we Kick-off the Advent Season.



We will be participating in Fall-fest/Trunk or Treat this year. Be sure to not miss our Pirate-themed decorations and costumes!



YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Our very own Jenn Specht is a senior!! I was so happy to be able to attend her soccer team's senior night and celebrate “all things Jenn”. We are so blessed to have Jenn as a part of our group; her kind, thoughtful presence always makes things better!



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Nami Walk —Thank you!

Thank you to those that donated to this amazing cause. #Together4MH. The mission of Nami is to open up doors for everyone from every walk of life to have access to the Mental Health resources they deserve. Our generous congregation donated \$500 to this cause. We had 3 on our team that walked the course in just over an hour!



November Missions Project

St. Mark's Cares is providing a meal to the student's at the Wesley House on U.C. Campus. We will be providing slider's, chips, salad, desserts, and drinks. See Kym Nguyen for details.



MATTHEW 25 "SERVE SAT." November 19



There is another volunteer opportunity at **Matthew 25 Ministries**

Saturday, November 19 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. The mission of Matthew 25 Ministries is by providing nutritional food to the hungry, clean water for the thirsty, clothing to the naked, affordable shelter to the homeless, medical care to the ill, and humanitarian supplies to those in need.



Additionally, Matthew 25 Ministries is committed to fulfilling Matthew 25:40 by educating the public on the conditions and needs of the "least of these" and by providing resources for action.

For details, contact Lynne Schumacker. A sign-up list is in the Narthex.

Thank you to Volunteers

Thank you to the 9 volunteers from our congregation that came out and packed 226 Senior Boxes. They always appreciate St. Mark's for their efforts in getting these boxes packed.



Keeping the Family Promise Gala!



Thank you to Kym, Steve, Lynne, and Bill for sponsoring a table this year at the Family Promise fundraiser for St. Mark's. There were 11 members that came out to support this amazing event.

It was an enjoyable evening of FOOD, FRIENDS, and FUNDRAISING! The fundraising goal for this event was \$50K which was not only met but exceeded, Wow!

This year's fundraising event was to help in the purchase of a much needed van for Family Promise.

**SAVE THE DATE of June 10, 2023
DOT DASH Walk/Run Event**

Calling ALL Cook's—December 9th!

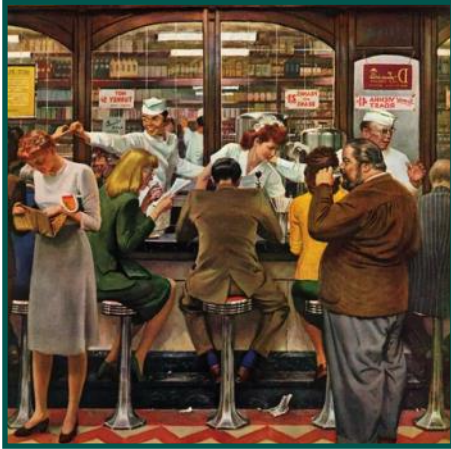


Calling all cook's in our congregation. There is another opportunity to provide a meal for Serve City on December 9. See the Narthex bulletin board for details or contact Charlotte Tierney.



FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS

MONTHLY LUNCH BUNCH



The popular Lunch Bunch has returned and getting together on the “fourth Tuesday” of each month. We had our first lunch in October and are looking forward to the next lunch on November 22.

The restaurant location will be announced in the weekly bulletin.

This is a group to just come together and have fellowship with your St. Mark’s Family. There is no joining or requirement, so come when you can. Lunch will be at a variety of local restaurants within the area. You will need to make reservations the week before the meeting.

For reservations and more details, contact:
Brenda Smoot at (513) 316-1807.



“Hanging of the Greens”
Sunday Nov. 20, beginning at 5pm
Join in in decorating the sanctuary followed
by a Pizza party and fellowship.

“Special Christmas Concert” by the Ohio Military Band

Please join us on December 8 at 7:30pm as St. Mark’s welcomes the Ohio Military Band for an evening holiday concert. Mark Hensler has been the director of the group for nearly 30 years and will be joined by the Bells of St. Mark’s and the St. Mark’s Choir.

Chris Beiser and Richard Roemer will also be performing solos with the band. Start off your holiday season with festive music such as “Sleigh Ride”, “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”, and more!

You can find out more about the band on their website at <https://ohiomilitaryband.com>

or their Facebook page.

We hope to see you there!



Annual Giving Tree to Parkside Residents!

Can you believe Christmas is right around the corner? Our congregation will be providing Christmas gifts to the residents at Parkside again this year. Be on the lookout for the tree with gift ideas right after Thanksgiving.

More details coming soon!



MUSIC MINISTRY



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC CHRIS BEISER

November always brings thoughts of blessings received from family, friends, and our ever present Lord.

I am certainly blessed with all of these things weekly as I serve St. Mark's as the Music Director. I wanted to share this article with you that was given to me a few weeks ago. I think it holds true as "traditional" music has changed so much in churches.

Things have changed. There aren't as many people participating in church choirs these days. Some have gone to sing in the heavenly choir. Some of the voices have weakened a bit. Some have lost a portion of their vocal range. The traditional way of doing things is disappearing. Many choir don't sing in robes anymore, instrumentation has changed, the piano and organ again are supplemented with drums and guitars. Things definitely have changed, and change is inevitable (and sometimes very healthy!)



However, choral singing is still beautiful. Dynamics are still breathtaking. Articulation and phrasing are still painting vivid pictures of the text. Good breath support is still creating notes that are on pitch and carry with them great depth and sound. Choir members are still dedicated to working hard each week to bless the Lord and His people.

What has not changed is the fact that choir is still one of the most beautiful and engaging ministries in a church... It provides a powerful expression of praise and worship that a soloist, band, or congregation cannot do.

So make sure your choir (as we are so fortunate to still have one) is affirmed and appreciated. It takes a lot of commitment to create and maintain a church choir.

Pray for your choir members regularly, let them know how much you are inspired by their ministry. *Which I must say the congregation at St. Mark's does all of these things...so keep it up!*

Hurray for church choir members! May God continue to use them powerfully in a world that desperately needs to hear their message! I love and am blessed with an amazing church family, pastor, and church choir family.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father
—James 1:17



POEM WRITTEN BY LINDA PAYNE

*I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all the wonderful things you have done.
I will sing for joy because of you.*

(Psalm 9:1-2a)

For me
a grateful heart
does not come naturally
giving thanks is often difficult
Life intrudes
Disease, death
grief and loss
consume
Hurt, betrayal
fear and failure
block the way
And yet, I know
when I praise you with all my heart
I am no longer consumed
When I meditate on the
wonders you have done,
roadblocks are removed
When I sing songs of joy to you
my ungrateful heart
is set free
to give thanks

FINANCIAL UPDATE

GALE GOODMAN, FINANCE CHAIR



Psalm 73:26

When all else fails,
God is the strength of
my heart and my
portion forever.

Dear St. Mark's Family,

For the last several months, giving to St. Mark's Giving has been slowing. We have been hopeful that our summer blues would start to wain as fall approached. We received \$21,782 in giving for the month of September. Year-to-date, we have received \$242,884. This amount can be compared to the same period in 2021 with that amount being \$240,451. So, we are still outpacing giving in 2022 compared to 2021 by \$2,400. At the end of September, we have \$48,060 on deposit at the credit union.

During the month of September, we spent \$25,056. Which compared to the \$21,782 we received, we spent \$3,275 more than what was given. Through September 2022, our year-to-date expenses were \$232,850 compared to the year-to-date expenses for 2021 of \$234,039. I think it is important to point out that in 2021 all apportionments had been paid. Thus far in 2022, we have not been able to pay them in July, August, or September. I also want to note, that we have continued to pay the loan at the Credit Union. The loan balance stands at \$40,107 at the end of September.

You may ask, "If our cash balance at the credit union is \$48,060 why can't the apportionments be paid?" Well, there is a simple answer for that. When a gift is given to a Church or non-profit organization and that gift is designated for a particular fund (IE: Music Ministry, Youth, St Mark's Cares, etc.), that gift has to be used for that purpose. Therefore, we can not take a gift given for a designated fund and apply it to the General Fund. We have \$47,851 in designated funds on our financial statements. The difference between the cash balance and the designated funds is very close. We have to start borrowing from ourselves to cover the expenses when the cash balance dips below the designated funds balance. You will recall, Tim would speak about borrowing from ourselves, and that in short is what was and is meant.

We have chosen not to pay the apportionments because we would have to start borrowing from ourselves more. We are not comfortable doing that. As always if you have any questions about our financial picture and where we stand, please feel free to ask me or our Treasury Team: Bill and Lynne Schumacker.

Yours in Christ,

Gale Goodman, Finance Chair



PICK ME UP MOMENTS — SEPTEMBER

COMPILED BY CAROL PITTMAN

"With a Grateful Heart"

- Nov 01 Once you begin to take note of the things you are grateful for, you begin to lose sight of the things you lack.—Germany Kent
- Nov 02 Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.
—Willam A. Ward
- Nov 03 Give thanks for a little and you'll find a lot.—Hansa Proverb
- Nov 04 Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use the true measure of our thanksgiving.—W.I. Purkiser
- Nov 05 I have been touched by the souls of some beautiful people and for that I'm thankful.—Dr. Ameer Patel
- Nov 06 Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole world know what He has done.—1Chronicles 16:8
- Nov 07 I will give thanks to the Lord because of His righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High.—Psalm 7:17
- Nov 08 At the end of the day I'm thankful that my blessings are bigger than my problems.—Anon
- Nov 09 A spirit of thanksgiving makes all the difference.—Anon
- Nov 10 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.—Palm 69:30
- Nov 11 Life is full of give and take. Give thanks and take nothing for granted.—Anon
- Nov 12 We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.—John F. Kennedy
- Nov 13 Be thankful for what you have. Your life, no matter how bad you think it is, is someone else's fairy tale.—Wale Ayeni
- Nov 14 Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never have enough.
—Oprah Winfrey
- Nov 15 Enter His gates with thanksgiving; go into His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name.—Psalm 100:4
- Nov 16 I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.—Psalm 9:1
- Nov 17 The more you thank life, the more life gives you to be thankful for.—Roma Downey
- Nov 18 Begin and end each day with thankfulness.—Anon
- Nov 19 The thankful heart opens our eyes to a multitude of blessings that continually surround us.—James E. Faust
- Nov 20 Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.—1Thessalonians 5:18
- Nov 21 Be thankful for the struggles you go through. They make you stronger, wiser and humble. Don't let them break you.
Let them make you.—Anon
- Nov 22 Today, be thankful and think how rich you are. Your family is priceless, your time is gold, and your health is wealth.—Zig Ziglar
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving is a joyous invitation to shower the world with love and gratitude.—Amy Leigh Mercee
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving isn't just a day...it's a way we can live our lives every day.—Katrina Mayer
- Nov 25 Tomorrow is a direct result of what you choose today. Choose wisely, choose carefully and choose something that your tomorrow self will thank you for.—Anon
- Nov 26 There is always something to be thankful for.—Anon
- Nov 27 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.—1 Corinthians 15:57
- Nov 28 One of the best gifts you can give someone is thanking them for being a part of your life.—Anon
- Nov 29 Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way.—Native American saying
- Nov 30 Pray and keep praying. Be alert and thankful when you pray.—Colossians 4:2



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

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



SAVE THE DATE

Advent Celebration

November 27, Sunday

5:30 — 7:00pm

POTLUCK AND PROGRAM

Join the church family in welcoming in the Advent Season. We will have a potluck meal followed by an Advent program.



SAVE THE DATE
Christmas Eve Family Event Service

DECEMBER 24, SATURDAY at 6pm
(Christmas Eve Services at 11pm)

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, OTHER GATHERINGS

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

November Anniversaries

11/06	Doug & Beth Ewald	46
11/10	Dale & Joy Addis	60
11/12	Don & Gretchen Menke	34
11/14	Bill & Mary Lou Knau	63
11/21	Jerry & Betty Jones	33



November Birthdays

11/01	Bill Knau	
11/01	Gunnar Marshall	15
11/02	Pam Hard	
11/02	Peggy Smith	
11/03	Jaiden Grimes	
11/03	Virginia Shaw	90
11/06	Mary Begley	
11/06	Mary Lou Knau	
11/08	Mallory Creager	10
11/08	Gail Hartwig	
11/10	Greg Childress	
11/10	Katie Meyer	
11/11	Don Moser	
11/12	Pam Brockfield	
11/13	Darlene Kuertz	
11/17	Cliff Klug	
11/21	Sue Combs	
11/22	Vivian Brill	91
11/22	Steve Nguyen	
11/23	John Prohaska	
11/25	Sharon Hamp	
11/25	Maria Mullen	
11/25	Molly Robinson	8
11/26	Brenda Smoot	
11/28	Elaine Shreve	
11/29	Lynne Schumacker	
11/30	Melinda Gross	
11/30	Pastor Joe Payne	"really old"

RUTH'S CIRCLE

The next meeting is Friday, November 18
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



NURTURE & CARE MEAL OPPORTUNITY

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



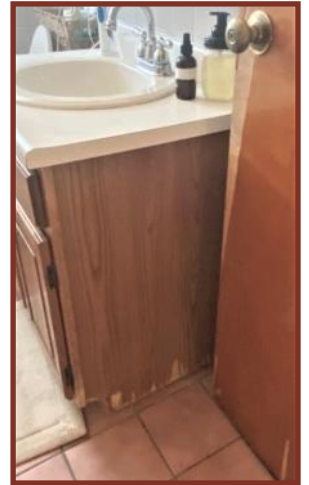
ST. MARK'S TRUSTEES CORNER

LETTER FROM TRUSTEES CHAIR, JENNIE MARSHALL

NOVEMBER TRUSTEE UPDATE

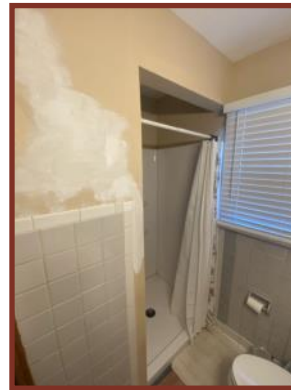
There is never a good way to talk about bathrooms!

And for a number of years your Trustees have had to get to business evaluating our bathroom situation. At the time when Pastor Joe and Linda moved into the parsonage in 2019, the need to update the bathrooms had been identified, recognizing that the last time any refresh was done was during the 1980's.



In the last year, the St. Mark's Trustees identified the need to evaluate the spaces again, and sought the help of the congregation for a referral for a contractor. We received one referral, Gorgeous Living LLC., and they have been very supportive in evaluating the bathrooms in both our church facility and the parsonage. Just like we do within our own homes, we had to consider what funds were available and what needed attention first, and asked for Anthony at Gorgeous Living and his team for their professional opinion on what bathroom was in the worst state. They came to the conclusion that the upstairs bathroom of the parsonage could be the first considered.

At this time, we have a quote for a complete tear out, drywall (replacing the current plaster) and upgrade of the upstairs bathroom that is aligned with previous estimates. Trustees are working with both the Finance Committee and Ad Council on the desire to move forward with the upgrade and want to share the before pictures with you, and we are hopeful to be able to share updated pictures as we consider moving forward!



Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Marshall, Lead Trustee and the 2022 Trustees:
Bob Mendenhall, Penny Dole, Rich Turner, Matt Snyder,
Marlis Hatton and Tonya Leguina.



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.

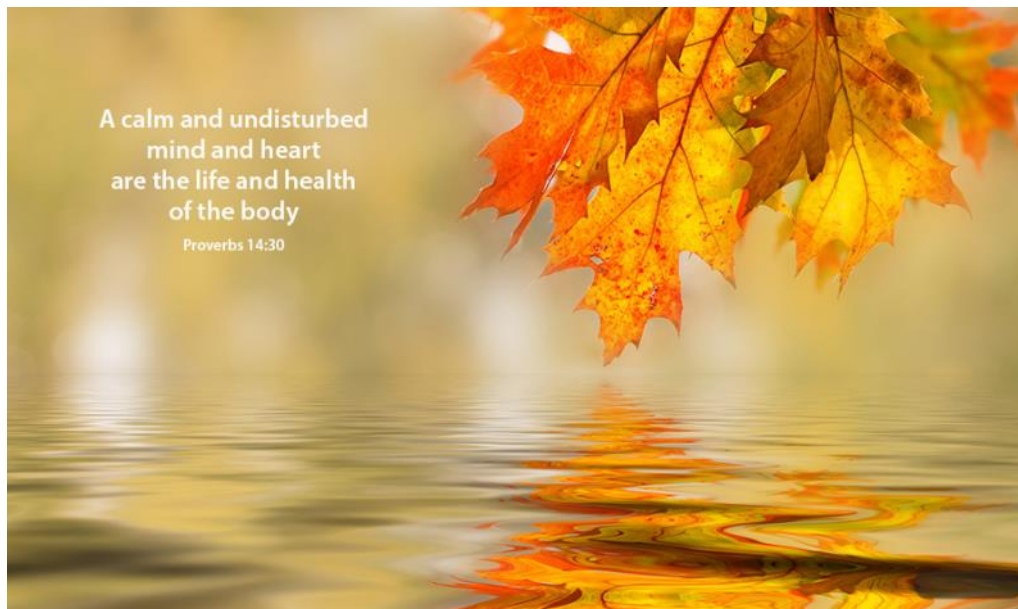
Contact Jennie Marshall with questions.



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 NOVEMBER 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
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)