



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.

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023

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Annual Giving Tree to Parkside Residents!

We are happy to provide Christmas Presents to our neighbors at Parkside. There is a Christmas Tree in the Narthex. Presents and gifts are to be wrapped and returned by DECEMBER 4, Sunday so that we can take them over to them during the second week of December. Thank you!



"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!



DECEMBER 18, SUNDAY at 9:30am

ADVENT CHRISTMAS SERIES: ANGELS AMONG US
CHOIR CANTATA — "SING WITH THE ANGELS"
(MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 6, MUSIC MINISTRY)

DECEMBER 24, SATURDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT 6pm & 11pm



ST. MARK'S TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD POST OFFICE NOW OPEN!

The youth have set up the Christmas card post office as of 11/27 in the Narthex. We appreciate your donations as we sort and pass out your cards to our congregation.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOE



Dear St. Mark's Church Family,

Advent and Christmas greetings to you and yours in the name of Jesus Christ, the true reason for the season. In this letter I have these three thoughts to share with you.

First, in case you haven't heard, I announced at the beginning of worship on November 6th my decision to retire at the end of June, 2023. The primary reason for this decision is to allow more opportunities to experience life with family, including our seven grandchildren. They grow so fast, and time is fleeting. Linda and I plan to move to Minnesota to be close to our son and his family, while also allowing time for extended visits to other family members. This was not an easy decision. By the time of my retirement I will have been at St. Mark's for five years. This is not a long time, but we have gone through a lot together. We have bonded and have been a team, you and me. You've supported Linda and myself through our personal tragedy and health concerns, and we've supported each other through Covid and other trials and tribulations. We've learned to be flexible and to pivot when necessary. We've had many good, fun times together. We've grown spiritually. We will miss you! But we do have six more months together. Aside from other responsibilities, I intend to work with you in preparing the way for your next pastor. That person has not been determined yet, so please join me in praying for the best pastor for St. Mark's.

Second, I want you to know how proud I am of the conversations we had these past couple of years. They weren't easy, but I believe it was worth it to have them. You should also know that in spite of the seeming turmoil in the United Methodist Church, I have never been more hopeful and optimistic. Read what the U.M. News Service reported about the recently held U.S. Jurisdictional Conferences:

"Even amid mounting church disaffiliations those who plan to remain United Methodist showed signs of greater unity — collaborating across jurisdictional lines in trying to set the direction of the denomination's future. For example, all five jurisdictions approved similarly worded petitions that aspire to a future United Methodist Church "here LGBTQIA+ people will be protected, affirmed, and empowered in the life and ministry of the church."

I was overjoyed to read this! I also want you to know that a large majority - around 90% - of our churches are remaining United Methodist. Yes, we have our individual differences, but it is gratifying that all five of our U.S. Jurisdictional Conferences made these powerful statements of unity and cooperation. This gives me hope that the United Methodist Church will truly be a "big tent" denomination in which all people—including you and me—are affirmed and loved. Because you have done the hard work of remaining in dialogue with one another, I am confident that St. Mark's is now poised to be a shining example for other churches to emulate, and a church that our neighbors will want to unite with.

Finally, as we are in the midst of wrapping up this year and preparing for the next, I thank you for your offerings and commitment for the coming year. Be assured that St. Mark's is a worthy investment. Within the pages of this Newsletter are just a few examples of ministries that emerge from this church. Remember, your gifts provide the much needed "fuel" that make these ministries possible. As we remember the ultimate Gift given in Jesus, I ask that you consider and pray what God is calling you to give to support the ministries of St. Mark's in December and in the year to come. I also ask that those who make end-of-year charitable gifts that you consider St. Mark's. I believe in St. Mark's.

I believe in you! Best wishes for the coming New Year, and Thank You for the privilege of serving as...

Your Pastor,
Joe



YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY JULIE MISLANSKY



We had a fun time decorating my van and ourselves for **Trunk-or-Treat!** Thanks to all the youth who attended and helped with serving the food and running the games. *(more photos on pg 9)*



Fall means falling leaves, so we journeyed to Kathy Bradley's yard this month to rake and bag leaves! We appreciate her gift to us and we used it to enjoy a meal at Cane's.



The youth met on November 20, for a time of fellowship and bible study followed by helping with "Hanging of the Greens" in the sanctuary. It's hard to believe that November is soon gone, and we are right in the midst of the Advent season!

Advent and January Meeting Schedule

November 27, 5:30-7:00—Family Advent Celebration
(All are welcome)

December 4, (Time TBA)—Youth Meeting

December 18, 5-7pm, GLOW & Youth Christmas Party

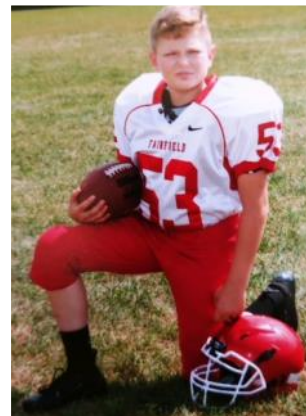
January 8, (Time TBA)—Youth Meeting

January 22, (Time TBA)—Youth Meeting



YOUTH SPOTLIGHTS

Kayden Dutey-Anderson **LOVES** football; watching it, following all the teams and their standings, teasing me about the Cleveland Browns, and, of course, playing football! I was super happy to attend one of his games this season. Kayden is a freshman and plays for the Fairfield Indians. Kayden is a funny and thoughtful young man and we are blessed that he is in our youth group.



Gunnar Marshall, a freshman, is discovering his talents! He is singing, acting, and dancing for the Fairfield Choraliers and the Traveling Troupe. Tim and I had the joy of attending his latest show, "Folktales from Around the World," where he starred as a hare and a farmer. Love that Gunnar has found his passion! We are blessed as a youth group to journey with him.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

October Mission: Coat Drive

Our October Mission project was a coat drive for Fairfield City Schools. Once again our congregation came through in a big way. We collected 43 coats, 12 scarves, 6 pairs of gloves, and 6 hats!

They were delivered to the community liaison, Sherese Slaughter-Haynes. She was thrilled to receive so many coats and will work to provide coats for students in need. Thank you!



November Mission: Meal at Wesley House

Thank you to the 9 members of our congregation who provided a delicious meal to the Wesley House.

Pastor Becky wanted to pass on their deepest appreciation to our congregation. She expressed that she would love to come on a Sunday and express their appreciation in person.



THEY TRULY APPRECIATE OUR SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP!



December Mission: Calling ALL Cooks!

On December 9, Friday Calling all cooks again. Chance to prepare a meal for Serve City to help those that are homeless in the Hamilton area.



January Missions Project

St. Marks Cares will be taking donations for clothing to provide for new residents at Park Side. Some arrive at the facility with just the clothes on their backs.

We will be accepting packages of underwear and socks, gently used clothing that is comfy for nursing home residents to wear.



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 signing the list at the Welcome area in Narthex, or by contacting Pam Guynes.



FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS

RUTH CIRCLE

DECEMBER & JANUARY

(Note: This is an earlier starting time since it is a luncheon)

December 16 (Friday) 12PM

(Fellowship Hall)

Ruth Circle December

Christmas Party Potluck Luncheon

Entrée and drinks provided

Bring a covered dish and \$1.00 Grab Bag Gift

Save the next date: January 20, Friday at 1PM

For questions, contact Pam Guynes at

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



MONTHLY LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch has had a great start with 30 people participating in the first two outings; at Berd's Grill and LaRosa's. Reminder, this is a group that you come when you can, but reservations need to be made two days before the lunch. Several restaurants have been suggested, so hopefully there will be one that interests you. Attending the Lunch Bunch is a wonderful way to have fellowship with your St. Mark's family.



Lunch is always the 4th Tuesday each month with the exception of December which will be the Annual Senior Luncheon on Saturday, December 17 On January 24, 2023 at 12PM we will go to the Olive Garden on Route 4 (Fairfield)
Reservations deadline by January 22, 2023
Future restaurant location will be announced in the weekly bulletins as well as the newsletters.

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

MOCKTAILS AND SNACKS PARTY

January 19 (Thursday) 7-9PM

(Meet in the Narthex)

LADIES NIGHT OUT!

Please join us for a night of "Mocktails and Snacks" as we socialize and get to know each other through a time of fun and fellowship!

All women of our church family are welcome and feel free to bring a friend along too!

Watch for the sign up sheet on January 1, 2023 in the Narthex

**Sponsored by your Children and Family Ministry Team
Contact Sue Luken for more details**



ANNUAL SENIOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

**December 17 (Saturday) at 1pm
(Fellowship Hall)**

Bring a covered dish, socialize with St. Mark's Family, and enjoy the special entertainment with:

***Linda Payne singing with Sue Combs playing piano**



***For more details contact Bud & Shirley Aydlett
at (513) 894-5209**

MUSIC MINISTRY



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC CHRIS BEISER

There will certainly be angels among us this Advent/Christmas season! The theme this year is centered around angels and what glorious Sundays we will be having together as each week songs, scripture, and stories of angels will be shared!

Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, and continuing through Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, the choir will be singing anthems about angels, the handbells will ring the joyous news of the angels, hymns will be the angel carols, and special music will be about...
I'll give you one guess...
Angels!



I'm so very excited that on Sunday December 18, the chancel choir will present 'Sing With The Angels.' This cantata features original music interspersed with familiar carols. Through narration and song, the Christmas story is told from the vantage point of the angels. Angels are referenced throughout scriptures and play a major role in the story of Christ's birth, from Gabriel's first appearance to Zacharias, to the glorious scene of angels filling the heavens singing "Gloria in excelsis Deo."



Please make plans now to join us Sunday December 18 at 9:30 with choir, live orchestra, and youth narrators for a celebration of our Savior's birth that will certainly fill the congregation with the awesome images and sounds of the angels, just as the world experienced on that first Christmas!

Another exciting event will be a special concert held at St. Marks on Thursday December 8, at 7:30 PM. The St Mark's choir, handbells, Dick Roemer percussion, Chris Beiser soloist, and the Ohio Military Band, directed by

Mark Hensler have a terrific evening of holiday music planned. What a wonderful addition to the holidays this will be!

As is tradition at St. Mark's, there will be two music filled Christmas Eve services this year. Hymns and special music galore will be the final cherry on top of a blessed season.

Excitement, excitement, excitement for all the events going on in the Music Ministry, its so amazing to feel some normal after several years of struggling with Covid restrictions and safety precautions. I'm blessed and honored to be given the opportunity to share these magnificent events with you this next month. It is the best gift I could receive and one I'm most happy to give.

Merry Christmas and a most Happy 2023!
Chris Beiser and Sue Combs

POEM WRITTEN BY LINDA PAYNE

THERE WILL COME A TIME

(based on Revelation 21:22-24)

There will come a time:
when peace shall reign
quarreling, fighting, persecution
in the name of religion, race, power and wealth will end.
For the glory of the Lord shall be our light
and Jesus shall be our lamp.



There will come a time:
when the starving shall eat their fill
the thirsty shall be satisfied
those who mourn shall be comforted.
For the glory of the Lord shall be our light
and Jesus shall be our lamp.

There will come a time:
when truth will defeat deceit
respect will replace prejudice
faith will conquer fear.
For the glory of the Lord shall be our light
and Jesus shall be our lamp.

There will come a time:
when our greatest desire will be for God
to seek God's face, do God's will
live in harmony with all people.
For the glory of the Lord shall be our light
and Jesus shall be our lamp.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

GALE GOODMAN, FINANCE CHAIR

Luke 2:10

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people



Dear St. Mark's Family,

As of the writing of this article, we are starting to feel the effects of winter coming on. The days are shorter and colder. I just keep focused on each cold day brings us closer to spring. The month of October is still being closed out and reconciled. As of October 31, we had \$59,200 on deposit in the combined checking and savings accounts at the Credit Union. Our loan is at \$39,418.

Commitment Sunday is coming and we are hoping that you have had an opportunity to complete and return your cards. Please note, that we can still receive them after November 13. So, do not think you missed your opportunity to help us plan for the coming year. By now, I hope you have had an opportunity to review your giving statements through the end of September. Remember, if you do find something that does not reconcile with what your records show, please let Ruth Ritenbaugh or Cheryl Creech know so that they can research to try to resolve any issues before year-end. I want to thank everyone, again, for the support through your prayers and your gifts to St Mark's this year. It has been a challenging year in so many aspects. However, together we have supported each other and our Church.

I wish each of you and your families a wonderful Thanksgiving.

A beautiful and memorable Christmas season.

I am full of hope for the New Year – I wish you a very Happy New Year.

Yours in Christ,

Gale Goodman, Finance Chair



PICK ME UP MOMENTS — DECEMBER

COMPILED BY CAROL PITTMAN

"God bless us, every one!"

- Dec 01 What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future.—Agnes M. Pahro
- Dec 02 Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.—Neal A. Maxwell
- Dec 03 Are you celebrating a season or worshipping a Savior?—Anon
- Dec 04 Christmas brings family and friends together. It helps us to appreciate the love in our lives that we often take for granted. May the true meaning of the holiday season fill your heart and home with many blessings.—Anon
- Dec 05 May the Christmas season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter.—Anon
- Dec 06 The best Christmas gift is to realize how much you already have.—Anon
- Dec 07 Christmas isn't a season, it's a feeling.—Edna Ferber
- Dec 08 Christmas is not a time or a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy is to have the real spirit of Christmas.—Calvin Coolidge
- Dec 09 May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, the gladness of Christmas give you hope; the warmth of Christmas grant you love.—Anon
- Dec 10 Lord you came Upon a Midnight Clear to bring Joy to the World and draw us near. It was a Holy Night when you came from above to fill our hearts with hope and love. Thank you "Sweet Baby Boy" for clothing us with Comfort and Joy.—Anon
- Dec 11 An angel said unto them, "Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.—Luke 2:10
- Dec 12 Christmas gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us.—David Cameron
- Dec 13 And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace.—Isaiah 9:6
- Dec 14 Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas.—Dale Evans
- Dec 15 May the miracle of Christmas find you safe in the peace of God and warm in the Light of Christ.—Anon
- Dec 16 I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.—From Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol
- Dec 17 Christmas magic is silent. You don't hear it--you feel it, you know it, you believe it.—Kevin Alan Milne
- Dec 18 Jesus was God's gift to the world, not just for Christmas, but for every single day...your whole life through... and even beyond for all eternity. —Anon
- Dec 19 Jesus took His place in a manger so that we might have a home in heaven.—Greg Laurie
- Dec 20 "Jesus," He came not to a throne, but to a manger. He chose not an earthly kingdom, but a cross. He gave not just a little but everything.—Holley Gerth
- Dec 21 My prayer for you this Christmas is that you would know the greatest gift...Jesus.—Anon
- Dec 22 May the wonder of His birth fill your heart with unending praise.—Anon
- Dec 23 May angels be beside you and bless this special day with love and calm surrounding you.—Anon
- Dec 24 When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.—Matthew 2:10
- Dec 25 For unto you is born in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2:11**
- Dec 26 A new year stands before us like a chapter in a book waiting to be written.—Melody Beattie
- Dec 27 What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet.—Anne Frank
- Dec 28 Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?—L.M. Montgomery
- Dec 29 Approach the new year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each day.—Michael Josephson
- Dec 30 And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been.—Rainer Maria Rilke
- Dec 31 Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one.—Brad Paisley



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

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



DECEMBER 18, Sunday 5-7PM, YOUTH & CHILDREN MINISTRIES PARTY
The Youth & Children Ministries will have their special Christmas Party
in Fellowship Hall Dinner will be provided.
Contact Julie Mislansky and Peggy Smith for more details

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

SNAPSHOTS FROM TRUNK OR TREAT
THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENT!



BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, OTHER GATHERINGS

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

December Anniversaries

12/14	Bud & Shirley Aydlett	65
12/15	David & Pam Brockfield	49
12/28	Marty & Gay Kubik	8



January Anniversaries

01/06	Mike & Dianne Aiken	56
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December Birthdays

12/02	Paul Schutte	
12/04	Tari Wolf	
12/05	Kathy Balchunas	
12/06	Bob Mendenhall	
12/08	Charlie Bryant	
12/08	Cheryl Creach	
12/09	Michele Leyrer	
12/09	Kenzie Meyer	9
12/13	Matt Snyder	
12/14	Ben Gallihugh	
12/14	Flo Moore	90
12/14	Jennifer Rinker	
12/14	Joyce Zugelter	
12/15	Ali Leguina	16
12/17	Linda Prohaska	
12/19	Cody Sines	
12/20	James Kuertz	
12/21	Pam Finfrock	
12/24	Marlis Hatton	
12/24	Charlene Miller	85
12/25	Sarah Hard	
12/29	Diana Mulunda	11
12/29	Pat Sena	
12/29	Tom Tierney	
12/30	Ira Begley	
12/30	Katherine Luken	
12/30	Katie Weiss	

January Birthdays

01/02	Kenzie Meyer	5
01/02	Brian Begley	
01/04	Jerry Jones	87
01/04	Joann Keith	
01/05	Helen Brown	85
01/05	Ron Hamblin	
01/05	Kai Sines	17
01/06	Lyn Bucalo	
01/07	David Brockfield	
01/07	Shelby Creager	12
01/08	Holly Craig	
01/08	Donal McDaniel	
01/08	Ann Shellman	80
01/08	Kallie Theiss	9
01/12	Brooke Becker	
01/12	Norma Cox	87
01/12	Addison Kuertz	7
01/18	Kayden Dutey-Anderson	15
01/19	Jerry Hartwig	
01/20	Bud Aydlett	89
01/20	Christy White	
01/22	Pat Pitman	84
01/22	Terri Roemer	
01/24	Karen Turner	
01/25	Larry Miller	
01/26	Betty Roark	
01/28	Ciara Menke	
01/28	Caitlin Menke	
01/29	Betty Jones	88
01/30	Davis Begley	
01/30	Bob Hamp	
01/31	Eric Leyrer	



TRUSTEES CORNER AND THANK YOU NOTES

THANK YOU FOR CARING AND GIVING

LETTER FROM TRUSTEES CHAIR, JENNIE MARSHALL DECEMBER and JANUARY UPDATE

Brrrr, Autumn in Fairfield has been beautiful but it looks like winter is on its way! Our Trustees and friends spent the first Saturday in November and the days leading up getting St. Mark's and our grounds ready for winter.

Your Trustees are very thankful for the extra **Helping Hands including:** Rich Turner, Bob Mendenhall, Dave and Pam Brockfield, Gil and Penny Dole, Matt Snyder, Tonya and Pablo Leguina, Jenni and Mark Hensler, Jeff Gering and Gay Kubik, to name a few. We were decluttered and cleaned up for the new District Superintendent visit!

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.

As we move into the Advent season, please sign up on the sheet posted on the Narthex bulletin board and a St. Mark's Trustee will contact you. We are also keeping the list of items that we are seeking helping hands. This list will be updated periodically as items are completed or new needs arise.

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

The Anthony Wayne lot has the for-sale sign out, updates on the selling process will be shared as they occur, if you know anyone looking to build a home in Fairfield, go ahead and share the listing too!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie Marshall
Trustee Lead



Thank You...

*Dear St. Mark's Family,
Thank you to everyone; for the prayers, calls and love during my surgery and recovery. You are such a blessing!*

Ann Brabbs

*Dear St. Mark's Family,
Thank you everyone; for the calls, prayers, cards, and thoughts during my recovery from broken femur. You are all so very appreciated!
Charlene Miller & Family
New address is at Berkeley Square
100 Capital Crescent, Apt 108
Hamilton, Oh 45013*

To All of the St. Mark's Family,

We thank you for all the love and support you have given our family during this difficult time. Thank you to all who were a part of Mom's life; reaching out, sending cards, visiting, making phone calls, and for the wonderful meal on Sunday. We appreciate you so much.

*With love,
Family of Phyllis Tunning*





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 DEC 2022/JAN 2023



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)