



# 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.

FEBRUARY 2023

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Oh, Taste and See  
that the LORD is good!  
Blessed is the one who takes  
refuge in Him! —Psalm 34:8

**FEBRUARY 2, SHARED HARVEST 12:30-2:30pm**  
**(See page 4 for more details)**

**FEBRUARY 7, MEAL at WESLEY HOUSE**  
**(See page 4 for more details)**

**FEBRUARY 21, (FAT TUESDAY) FOR PANCAKE SUPPER 5-7PM**  
**(See page 9 for more details)**

**FEBRUARY 22, ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE at 7:00PM**  
**(See page 2 for more details)**

**FEBRUARY 28, LUNCH BUNCH at 12PM**  
**(See page 5 for more details)**

## **HANGING OF THE GREENS—THANK YOU!!!**

Thank you to ALL that helped set-up and take down the Christmas decorations at St. Mark's.



## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOE



Dear St. Mark's Family,

On Sunday, January 15, I was pleased to introduce Alfred Arthur, a student at United Theological Seminary in Dayton. A resident of West Chester, Alfred will be spending the next sixteen weeks with us as a volunteer intern, the purpose of which is to fulfill a requirement for the degree Master of Divinity that Alfred is pursuing. Alfred is an aspiring reverend minister, and his goal is to be ordained as Full Elder in the United Methodist Church.



During his time with us, Alfred will be using his gifts and graces in all aspects of ministry here at St. Mark's. He hopes to serve in a variety of ministry settings, and St. Mark's is an ideal site for him, I believe.

Born in Ghana, Alfred emigrated to the United States twenty years ago and is now a naturalized U.S. citizen. He and his wife, Emma, have two daughters, Angel and Jada, ages eighteen and fourteen.

Alfred says when he's not preaching or reading his bible, he likes to watch sports, specifically the Bengals and various soccer clubs. He enjoys cheering on local teams of all sports.



Alfred's core values are being compassionate, innovative and love. He likes traveling and sightseeing as well. His favorite scripture is Ecclesiastes 12.

I trust you will join with me in extending a warm St. Mark's welcome to Alfred and his family. I have a hunch we will learn from him as much or more as he will learn during his brief time with us.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Joe

**PS: All are invited to register for a 45—60 minute Lenten Bible study led by Alfred Arthur. There are two meeting options: following our worship service on Feb. 26—April 2, or a Zoom study on Thursday evenings, Feb. 23—Mar. 30, at 6:45 PM. Alfred is also scheduled to preach at St. Mark's on Transfiguration Sunday, February 19, and the Second Sunday of Easter, April 16.**



May your Ash Wednesday be a time  
of reflection and promise.

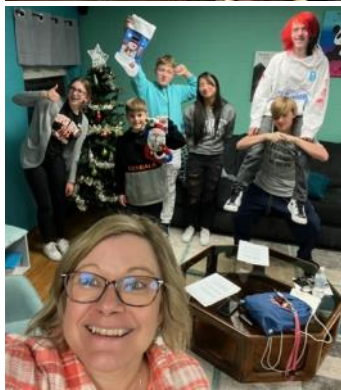
**Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. You are invited to attend this year's  
Ash Wednesday service, on February 22 at 7:00 pm  
The service will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.**

# YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

## DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY JULIE MISLANSKY



The youth group was active in attending and supporting many of the Advent activities this past holiday season. **In November**, we met to help “Hang the Greens” around the church and in our youth room.



The next week, we joined the congregation for the Advent Kick-off Celebration. The youth were responsible for bringing in the Advent candle each Sunday during the Advent season. Thanks to Ali, Ethan, Kayden D.A. and Philip for this! Kaden T. served by being an acolyte. Ali and Philip represented us well by being the narrators for the Christmas cantata. To cap off the season, we joined with the GLOW kids to share a meal and then drive through the lights at Pyramid Hill.



As per tradition, the youth managed the Christmas card post office, sorting and passing out cards each week. We are so appreciative of the \$336 we raised through donations! This money paid for our Christmas gathering with the GLOW kids and will stretch us well into the New Year’s activities. We had our first meeting of January 2023. Plans are set for the Youth Tubing Adventure at Perfect North Slopes on February 11!

**In February**, we will be serving in the woodshop at New Life Furniture making kitchen tables!

They say no experience needed, so I’m taking that as truth! We finish the month, February 26 with dinner & a movie. Some dates may be subject to change but will keep you posted.

### **YOUTH SPOTLIGHTS**

This month’s youth spotlight...I would like to shine a light on the Christmas cantata narrators... Ali Leguina and Philip Sealy! I am so grateful they shared their talents with our congregation by serving in this unique way...

**Ali** is a sophomore at Lakota West, and big news...she just got her driver’s license! She is one busy young lady, so I’m sure she is glad to be able to drive herself to wherever she wants! She is starting track this fall and will be pole vaulting. Ali is always willing to lend a hand wherever needed. I just have to look at her, she reads my mind, and knows what needs to be done.



**Philip Sealy** is a welcome new addition to our youth group! He came once as a guest with Ethan, and has been back every time since. Philip is a music student at Butler Tech; he sings and plays multiple instruments. I am hoping to catch one of his concerts this spring. He is kind and super helpful and we are glad he has joined us!

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

## February Missions Project



St. Mark's Cares will be taking donations for clothing to provide for residents at Parkside. Some people arrive with only the clothes on their backs. Thank you for your help!

### We are collecting:

Sweatpants/shirts (sizes; Large, XL, XXL), Underwear, Socks, Dearfoams, Depends, Word search books, Blankets, and small Pillows. We will be collecting these items through the second week of February. Bins will be in the Narthex. Items will stored upstairs as needed. For details contact Tari Randall for details.

## February 2—Shared Harvest

Enjoy an afternoon of volunteering and packing senior boxes at Shared Harvest. Sign up on the Narthex bulletin board. February 2, 12:30-2:30pm. For more details contact Debbie Bryant.



## February 7— Meal at Wesley House

We will be providing a meal at the Wesley House on Feb. 7. Sign up on the Narthex bulletin board. For details, contact Kym Nguyen.



## We asked for Cooks and you stepped up!

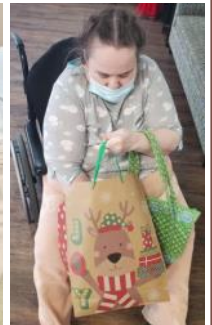


In December, we had **10** St. Mark's members of the congregation who blessed Serve City with a hot meal. They are always appreciative of everything we do whether it be cook or serve. **Thank you!**



## Annual Giving Tree at Parkside

The residents of Parkside smiled from ear to ear as they opened their Christmas presents. All residents received a beautifully wrapped present and the staff enjoyed a gift basket full of goodies as well. The staff were beyond grateful as we delivered the gifts right before Christmas.



# FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS

## **Ruth Circle**

**February 17 (Friday) at 1PM  
(Fellowship Hall)**

*A circle of WOMEN* may be the most powerful force known to Humanity! If you have one, embrace it. If you need one, seek it. If you find one, for the love of all that is good and holy, Dive in, Hold on, LOVE it up! Enjoy the fellowship.

For questions, contact Pam Guynes at (513) 779-9162 or email at Pamguynes2@gmail.com

## **Monthly Lunch Bunch**

**February 28 (Tuesday) at 12PM  
O'Charley's in the Tri-County area.**

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. Reservations have to be made at least TWO days before the set date.

### **Reservations deadline by February 26, 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**



## **Annual Senior Christmas Party**

Pictures from the Senior Party!  
Thank you to those who attended, we had a great time!  
Looking forward to next year.  
Sue Combs played piano with her magic fingers while  
Linda Payne sang lovely Christmas carols.

*(Thank you Bud Aydlett for snapping a few pics!)*



## **"Special Christmas Concert was Awesome!"**

In December, St. Mark's welcomed the Ohio Military Band and the Bells of St. Mark's in a "Special Christmas Concert"



**Thanks to ALL for a magical time this year!**



And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.  
—Hebrews 10:24 - 25

# MUSIC MINISTRY



**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
CHRIS BEISER**

*February is a month of Love!*



## Why not celebrate it with the love of music!

St. Mark's people love music, always have as long as I can remember. The music can be presented to the congregation or all of us joining into the music together, makes no difference it's a great part of Sunday services.

Why? Well, I'm not going to claim I have all the answers, but I think I have a few good ideas...

Music is a gift that we love to share with each other!

*1 Timothy 6:17 says we are to fix our hope on God, who will richly supply us with all things to enjoy.*

Music is one of those wonderful things  
God has given all of us.

## Music Connects Us...

There is something beautiful happening when we all raise our voices together in song. That amazing rush that flows through us when as a group of believers.

We are taking in the moments of the music,  
filling the service. Powerful!!!



**(2022 Christmas Cantata)**

## POEM WRITTEN BY LINDA PAYNE

### **MY BELOVED**

***M**usic floats from  
**Y**our loving heart; your  
**B**eauty sings within me.  
**E**very day, you  
**L**ead me to  
**O**pen doors of possibilities.  
**V**istas of new worlds  
**E**xpand before me. In sweet  
**D**evotion, I walk with you.*



# FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

GALE GOODMAN, FINANCE CHAIR

BILL & LYNNE SCHUMACKER, CO-TREASURERS



Galatians 6:9-10

## Stewardship

May we never tire to take the opportunity to do Good and to Show Love to ALL.

*Dear St. Mark's Family,*

Happy New Year to everyone! Bill, Lynne and I would like to thank everyone. St Mark's was able to finish the year with all the bills and apportionments being paid. We appreciate your gifts and support during the last two months of the year to make this happen. We also would like to celebrate Jennie Marshall and the Trustees for successfully being able to sell the empty lot. Remember, the proceeds from the sale of the lot can only be used for improvements to the Church's properties and not the operating budget of the Church.

In 2023, we still have a lot of work ahead of us. We are still falling short of the amount of Commitment Cards we have received. We are working on the proposed budget. As within your household, the expenses to run the Church have increased for 2023. This includes everything from the electric bill to the amount of apportionments that are due to conference. Please note that spending will need to be cut. Once the budget is set, the Finance Committee will take it to the Admin Board for approval. We will present budget details to the Congregation when the budget is finalized. Please know that we are working diligently to do the most with what we have been presented with.

As this is being written, things are happening behind the scenes. Ruth Ritenbaugh and Cheryl Creach have prepared, printed and sent the giving statements for 2022. The Finance Committee will be meeting to set the budget, and Bill and Lynne will be taking care of paying the bills.

Please feel free to contact myself or Bill & Lynne for your direct questions or comments. We have been and will continue to be happy to address your concerns directly. Remember always, that we love and care about the life of our Church, St Mark's; that's why we serve in this capacity. We are approachable on Sunday mornings or by phone/email. Our phone numbers and email addresses are in the directory.

In the Service of St. Mark's,  
Gale Goodman, Finance Committee Chair  
Bill & Lynne Schumacker, Co-Treasurers



# OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

## Giving from the Heart...

### **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, Chairman of Nurture & Care Committee.  
Pam Guynes (513) 779-9162  
Email: Pamguynes2@gmail.com



### **WORSHIP AUDIO VISUAL TECH**

Currently, Pastor Joe creates the visual cues on our presentation software (MediaShout) and Jennie Marshall projects them during worship (John Smith fills in for Jennie when she is absent). Pastor Joe truly enjoys doing this, but he is leaving in June. So, someone else or a team is needed to step into this role. Ideally, the team will work on rotation either monthly or weekly, and the same person will create and project the slides for the specific worship service. Training on the basics will be provided. Those interested can contact Pastor Joe by email or phone. Also, for those interested in working the sound board along with Rick Kiefer, or the camera for LiveStream with Mark Hensler and Matt Snyder, may also contact Joe for more information.



### **GARDENING LEADER & TEAM**

In late summer of 2019 Pastor Joe cast a vision of creating a vegetable garden on our church property between the parsonage and garages, with the main goal of providing fresh vegetables for our local food pantries. In 2020, that garden became a reality. Last year, following a strategic planting of crops that gave an extended harvests (such as tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, peppers, etc.), with St. Mark's donating 1008 pounds to our local food pantries. The garden has been under Pastor Joe's leadership, with assistance from those who either volunteered or were "gently persuaded" to help.



Gardening is not for everybody, for sure! However, others may know of its many benefits, or at least are willing to give it a try. What's needed to continue this ministry is a core group willing to give a little time during the growing season (sometimes a lot of time, especially at harvest when it's really fun!). Most helpful, would be a leader to oversee and take ownership of the operation. Pastor Joe has offered to help us get started this spring as an added incentive to continue the ministry when he departs. If you feel God calling you to this ministry, contact Pastor Joe by email or phone soon.





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

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

**SHROVE TUESDAY, PANCAKE SUPPER!**



Children and Family Ministries Committee is once again serving a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! Join us on "Fat Tuesday", February 21 (5-7PM) Fellowship Hall  
 Get your stack of pancakes with a special "Toppings Bar"

*To help us in our planning*, please let us know if you are attending by signing up at the Narthex Welcome Center. We had a great time last year, so if you didn't make it then, we hope you will join us this year!



**LADIES NITE MOCKTAILS PARTY**

We sipped, snacked and socialized! We had a great time and a big "Thank you" all who organized!



**Mocktails-Master, Peggy**

*"What's in your PURSE?"* 



# BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, OTHER GATHERINGS

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



## February Anniversary

2/01	John & Linda Prohaska	48
2/11	Dick & Darlene Kuertz	62
2/12	Donal & Sue McDaniel	51
2/14	Ardean & Pat Pitman	63
2/20	Don & Cheryl Kemen	41
2/28	Jeff & Carol Gering	36



## February Birthdays

2/03	Wade Lewis	
2/03	Elle Nguyen	
2/04	Susan Bunte	
2/04	Alex Robinson	
2/07	Arvilla Brinkmeyer	
2/08	Lauren Leyrer	
2/11	Julie Dichtl	
2/11	Doug Ewald	
2/11	Jean Stivers	93
2/17	Rick Marshall	
2/18	Lily Edmundson	10
2/18	Morgan Howard	
2/20	Cindy Booker	
2/21	Kyle Robinson	
2/22	Alice Becker	6
2/22	Shane Becker	
2/25	Shirley Grant	
2/28	Belinda Peters	
2/28	Bobby Rinker Jr.	

## MORE PHOTOS FROM ADVENT CELEBRATION



**Do you have some EMPTY Tide pod containers?**  
 The Monday Crafting Ladies are looking for these 'EMPTY' Tide pod containers, If you have some, please give to Shirley Aydlett or bring to the church office. Thank you.



# TRUSTEES CORNER AND THANK YOU NOTES

## THANK YOU FOR CARING AND GIVING

### LETTER FROM TRUSTEES CHAIR JENNIE MARSHALL FEBRUARY UPDATE

*Happy New Year!* Praying that you and yours have been keeping warm, safe and healthy! Our Trustees are gearing up for an eventful first half of the year but have been delayed in meeting in January due to my health. Despite not meeting, we continue to work together with the various projects.

#### Helping Hands 2023

Throughout the past year we had an ongoing effort in identifying areas needing updates or minor repairs and with the help of our congregation identifying those who could help with our Helping Hands program. We will expand this in 2023 with monthly scheduled **"All Church Workdays" beginning April 1, 2023**. April thru November, the first Saturday of the month (and a planned 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday should it rain), our Trustees will sponsor "All Church Workdays" both inside and outside. Prayerfully consider joining us for one, some, or all of these days in 2023.

*What will we work on during these All Church Workdays?  
Is there an area that needs attention or items you've noticed?*

*Helping Hands* is an ongoing effort 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 start the New Year, please note on the back of the Attendance Pad, by your name 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 periodically as items are completed or new needs arise.

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

#### Half-Acre Lot

The half-acre lot on Anthony Wayne Avenue behind the picnic shelter and garages sold for \$55,000 on Dec. 22, 2022. Many thanks to the Trustees; to the listing agent, Terrill Broshear and Bill Schumacker, Treasurer for their support and assistance. As stated in bulletin, proceeds from the sale will be used for capital expenditures only, as specified in the U.M. Book of Discipline, including; help fund upcoming major repair and maintenance expense of the church grounds, primarily updating the church bathrooms (and become ADA compliant), replacing the aging roof of our sanctuary and educational wing in addition to updating outdated bathrooms in the parsonage.

As shared previously, Trustees approved the update of the Parsonage upstairs bathroom and by the end of February that work will begin. We are excited to share our progress and updated bathroom as we proceed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennie Marshall  
Trustee Lead

## *Thank You...*

*To My St. Mark's Family,  
Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, calls, love and support that you showed me after the sudden loss of my sister, Charlotte Rotroff. I am truly blessed to have such a caring and wonderful church family!*

*With love,  
Pam Guynes*

*Dear St. Mark's Family,  
Thank you so very much for your support when I had hip replacement surgery in December. Your prayers, calls, and cards meant so much to me and helped me get through some challenging times. I especially want to thank the Choir for the support that carried me through.*

*Very Sincerely,  
Suzan Stracke*





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 FEBRUARY 2023



*Life is like a box of chocolates...*

### **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](http://www.fairfieldstmarks.com)

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