



HE IS RISEN

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.

APRIL 2023

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Our Friends at Parkside

Our congregation has graciously started a donation area upstairs at the church as the residents need items.

Thanks for the February donations and **we will continue to collect:** Sweatpants/shirts (sizes; Large, XL, XXL), Underwear, Socks, Dearfoams, Depends, Word search books, Blankets, and Pillows. Bins are in the Narthex. Contact Tari Randall for details.



APRIL PASTOR NEWS
(See page 2 for more details)

APRIL 1, ALL CHURCH WORK DAY (SATURDAY)
(See page 11 for more details)

APRIL 2, PALM SUNDAY/CANTATA/ANNUAL EGG HUNT
(See page 9 for more details)

APRIL 6 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AT 7PM

APRIL 9 EASTER SUNDAY

WEEKLY GROUP BIBLE STUDY
(See page 5 for more details)

APRIL 25, LUNCH BUNCH at 12PM
(See page 5 for more details)

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOE



NOTE: Part of this letter may be a trigger for some. If you are feeling suicidal, call 988, or talk to me at 614-531-2373. I care.

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Greetings to you in the name of our risen lord, Jesus Christ!

Easter has meant many things to me. When I was just a kid, Easter included coloring eggs, getting new shoes and clothes (because Mom wanted her kids to look good at church on Easter), finding candy in our baskets, and Dad taking pictures of us all lined up from shortest to tallest, before getting in the car to drive to church. Easter worship was not so fun for me as a kid. I loved our church, Walnut Street Methodist in Chillicothe. But, because there was no children's church on Easter, we kids had to sit still in the big wooden pews with the grownups and suffer through a long sermon. I remember my dad reaching over with his long arm in an attempt at keeping me from squirming too much.

When I reached adulthood, my understanding and feelings about Easter changed! I still enjoyed the candy and fun, but worship wasn't as bad as it was when I was a kid. It even became enjoyable. I loved singing the Easter hymns and I gradually came to know the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection. Years in seminary brought on more depth of meaning, and my many years of being a pastor and leading worship further deepened my beliefs.

Finally, on April 21, 2019, my first Easter spent with you was one of the most enjoyable, most celebrative days of my life. I could hardly contain my joy. I remember shouting with you, "Christ is Risen!" and meaning it to my core.

But then, on the next day, we learned that our 27 year old son had died, which plunged my family and me into shock, despair, and deep darkness. In the days that followed, we became aware that Jon had been in such a state of deep depression that it eventually overwhelmed him. He was in such a state that he did not realize how devastating his death would be for his loved ones.

Up until this time, I thought I "got" Easter. I thought I understood its meaning for my life and yours. I was a pastor, for goodness' sake! But, Jon's death caused me to question everything I knew and understood about the Resurrection. I even wondered for a time if I would ever be able to celebrate Easter again, let alone lead worship.

I write this because on this coming Easter, I intend to share what I have learned since that dark time, and what Easter means to me now, and that even through grief, we can experience joy and abundance. I know that I am not the only one who has experienced darkness and pain and loss. So, I pray that my words will be acceptable to God, and will be a help to those listening. I covet your prayers as I prepare for this day, my last Easter spent with you.

As always, I am deeply honored to serve as your pastor and friend,
Joe



YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY JULIE MISLANSKY



Our last two meetings have been packed with fun and fellowship!
On **February 26**, we had “dinner and a movie.”



On **March 12**, we enjoyed “game night, wings and basketball.”
NCAA basketball on the TV and hoops outside in the parking lot.

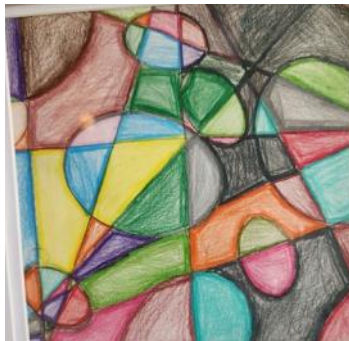


We served a meal at **Serve City**— the breakfast meal that our St. Mark’s members prepared! The residents are always so appreciative. We served in excess of fifty people. (See page 4)

YOUTH SPOTLIGHTS

One of our Spotlights this month is **Ethan Sizemore**. Ethan has been a part of youth group as long as I have—three years! His clever wit cannot be challenged! Ethan is an amazing Artist, so I am sharing some of his work here. Ethan (and his brother Kayden) are moving in May and I will miss them dearly.

(More **YOUTH** pics on page 8)



We also shine a spotlight this month on **Kristin Parker!** She is the granddaughter of Tari Randall. Kristin loves to play soccer had a blast joining us last fall at the FCC soccer game. She also loves country music. Kristin is a kind and caring young lady and **LOVES** to have her picture taken with me!



Save the Dates Youth meeting: April 16 & 30

ST. MARK’S 2023 GRADUATION SUNDAY

We will celebrate our 2023 St. Mark’s grads on Sunday, May 21. If you are a 2023 high school or college graduate, please contact the church office with this information: your graduation date, degree completed, future plans, and, of course, we will want some pictures to highlight the day! Please share 4-5 pictures of yourself “through the years” and send them to Lyn in the church office for more details and to submit your information and photos. Thank you.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Thank you from Serve City

The St. Mark's Youth Group served up a hot "Breakfast for Dinner" on March 17. They are always so grateful to have us. We served 50 people and 9 St. Mark's members cooked a hot meal/donated food.

There will be another opportunity to cook a meal on May 12. The theme is "SOUP" and is an in person serve opportunity.



Thank you for your donations to UMCOR Sunday and FFFP Easter Baskets

UMCOR is a not for profit organization that works in more than 80 countries worldwide to provide relief during devastating storms, ugly wars, and other crisis' that may arise.

We ALL make a difference!

Debbie Bryant put together 50 Easter Baskets this year so that children at Fairfield Food Pantry can have a "Happy Easter"

We will get a picture in the May Newsletter.

Your generosity is appreciated and is vital UMCOR Ministry and the Fairfield Food Pantry.

Thank you for Volunteering at MATTHEW 25



Thank you to the 8(+) members of our congregation that volunteered at Matthew 25 Ministries on March 25.



CRAFT ITEMS AVAILABLE (in Choir Room) And TIDE Pod Containers?

Handmade Spring Craft Items are available in the Choir Room.

One of a kind and handmade items by our Monday Craft Ladies. They have been busy sewing, gluing, cutting, painting and more preparing Easter goodies and for upcoming May 4 Salad Luncheon and Crafts event!

The Ladies are looking for this type 'EMPTY' Tide pod containers for an upcoming project. If you have some, please give to Shirley Aydtlett or bring to the church office.

Thank you.



BROKEN BUS OPPORTUNITY MAY 6

We have an amazing opportunity to volunteer at the Broken Bus on Saturday, May 6



If riding on the bus is not your thing, there is also an opportunity to cook the meal to be served that day. Please sign up on the bulletin board or contact Tari Randall.

FELLOWSHIPS and GATHERINGS

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP BIBLE STUDY 2-3PM (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

Join us each Wednesday afternoon from 2-3pm for a Group Bible study. Come when you can and learn about the Bible through group conversation, history and using Bible scriptures.

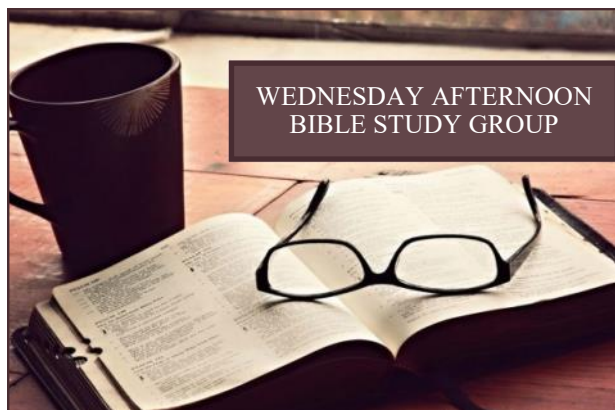
You are sure to learn something new!

Have you ever thought about certain scriptures and wished you had a better understanding?

Then this is your chance to find out.

We are currently studying the book of Luke.

For more details, contact Sue McDaniel.



RUTH CIRCLE APRIL 21, Friday, 1PM (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

Brenda Smoot will be doing the program titled, *"The Cross and Easter isn't over...ever!"*

In March, we had a wonderful guest speaker who spoke about her life living in the Australian Salvation Army All Girls' Home (The Lynen Home)



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

MONTHLY LUNCH BUNCH APRIL 25, TUESDAY, 12PM RIB CITY

**746 N.W. Washington Blvd
Hamilton, 45013**

Rib City has a variety of salads and sandwiches and of course, lots of ribs. Come join us! This is a group that simply comes together to fellowship with your St. Mark's family. We have a LARGE group which is even more fun! Reservations must be made at least TWO days before the set date.

Reservations deadline by April 23, 2023

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



SAVE THE DATE: MAY 4 (Thursday) ANNUAL SALAD LUNCHEON and CRAFTS/BOOK SALE

Be sure to mark your calendars for the popular Annual Salad Luncheon and Crafts/ Book Sale this year for MAY 4 (Thursday) 11AM—2PM. Contact Tomie O'Sullivan for more details.



SAVE THE DATE: MAY 14 MOTHER'S DAY "HAT DAY" SUNDAY

Wear your favorite hat to church on Mother's Day!



MUSIC MINISTRY



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC CHRIS BEISER

Easter is a season of ...

Easter is a season of remembrance, reflection, and rejoicing. We ponder the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, we praise God for the miracle of the resurrection, and we prepare our hearts for His promised return.



Celebrate everything Easter this year with the chancel choir and the powerful cantata, 'Is He Worthy?' on Palm Sunday, April 2 at 9:30 am. With a blend of traditional hymns, classic songs, poignant narrations, and a special moment retelling the crucifixion story called "[Journey to the Cross](#)", this cantata will boldly proclaim Jesus is worthy of all blessing, honor, and glory.

Please also mark your calendars for a very special service on Sunday April 30

What do you get when you combine the music ministry of St. Mark's with the beautiful poetry of Linda Payne? I'm thinking WOW!!! We have been blessed with reading and hearing Linda's poetry in our church newsletters, our church services, and even at special gatherings and meetings. She has an amazing gift...so I have no doubt this is going to be a meaningful, awesome service that you're not going to want to miss!

Our Lenten series has been about looking for love in the wrong places, but one place I truly believe that love can be found (and just like the lyrics of the song say) is in all of your faces and 'when I search your eyes, I see traces of all the things I'm dreaming of.'

**A beautiful Easter season,
a beautiful congregation of people,
a beautiful time together!**



POEM WRITTEN BY LINDA PAYNE



A WALK IN THE MARSH

Cattail carcasses lie
bent and broken across the marsh
yet beauty is in this graveyard
Their prostrate forms reveal
a hidden waterway
carrying a pair of ducks
even cowbirds appear lovely
in the early morning sun, their
heads gleaming like polished copper
Among the dead, life goes on
the marsh sings with birds and frogs
green stalks poke through
the grayish-brown corpses, a reminder
that though death is inevitable, life returns.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

GALE GOODMAN, FINANCE CHAIR
BILL & LYNNE SCHUMACKER, CO-TREASURERS

Dear St. Mark's Family,



Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

I hope everyone is enjoying more sunlight and the promise of warmer temperatures that are within our grasp. I, for one, am looking forward to the warm temps and longer days of sunshine. It is the time of the month where I report on the financial status of the Church. We ended February in a better position than what we ended January with. Our giving for the month totaled \$37,111; which brings our year-to-date amount received to \$62,295. Our expenses for February were somewhat lower in February than January. The February expenses were \$23,832. Therefore, we took in \$13,304 more than what we spent. Before you become too comfortable with that news, please remember we had a deficit in January where we spent more than what was received in giving. We hope that as the body of the Church, we can continue this trend of spending less than we take in.

The ending balances in the bank accounts totaled \$113,673. I want to remind you, as I do every month, that \$44,500 of that amount can only be used for improvements and repairs to the property of our Church campus. That amount is the \$51,500 from the proceeds of the sale of the empty lot less the first installment payment (\$7,000) for the bathroom remodel at the parsonage.

As was noted in last month's newsletter, the Finance Committee worked on and approved a budget that was sent to the Admin Board for approval. Because the amounts on the Commitment Cards fell short of what was anticipated, and we could not accurately pin down an estimated amount that could be anticipated from giving; the Admin Board voted on and passed a resolution to accept the Budget presented to them for the expenses only. Therefore, we will continue to review and monitor our dollars received against the dollars being spent.

It is the hope of the Finance Committee and the Admin Board that with spending being controlled, and receiving giving not anticipated that we will be able to fulfill the budget requests from the various committees and continue to pay our obligations as they come up. We, the Finance Committee, continue to thank you for your support of St. Mark's through your prayers and your gifts. As always, Bill Schumacker and I are available to address your questions, concerns, or comments. Please feel free to reach out to us.

With the hope of spring, thank you for your time!



MORE YOUTH PHOTOS and LADIES NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

Together in Christ...

MORE YOUTH PHOTOS



WHAT A SHOT!



WE HAD A "GREEN" LADIES NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

On March 16, we had 15 ladies come to the Ladies Night out Fellowship. A GREEN theme bring different kinds of green foods to snack on while we painted "Deviled Eggs" plates. Such a cute evening with good times shared by all.

The next ladies fellowship is planned for May!



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

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

Sunday, April 2 is Palm Sunday & Palm Procession
During worship, All children are invited to open our worship with a palm procession.

**Sunday, April 2 (After Service)
Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

Everyone is welcome!

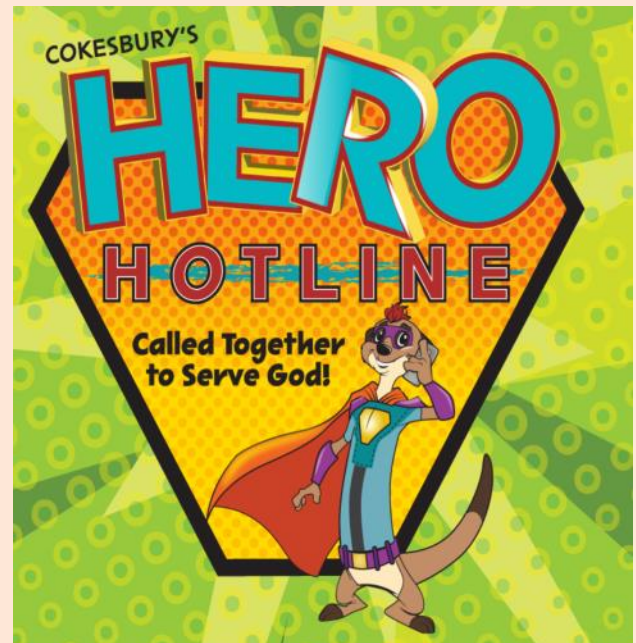
Activities Timeline for Annual Easter Egg Event:

- 10:45 Craft in Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 Easter Story in the Sanctuary
- 11:45 Easter Egg Hunt by Age Groups
- 12:00-ish Lunch served in Picnic shelter



Sunday, April 9 Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 23 G.L.O.W. @ Night



**SAVE THE DATE: VBS
JULY 9—13
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!**



JELLY BEAN PRAYER

RED is for the Blood He gave
GREEN is for the grass He made
YELLOW is for the sun so bright
ORANGE is for the edge of night
BLACK is for the sins we made
WHITE is for the grave He gave
PURPLE is for HIS hour of sorrow
PINK is for our new tomorrow

**A bag full of jelly beans,
colorful & sweet, is a prayer, is a promise,
is an Easter Treat!**

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, and OTHER

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



April Anniversary

4/12 Rich & Karen Turner 48



April Birthdays

| | | |
|------|------------------|----|
| 4/01 | Bob Klingel | |
| 4/01 | Susan Moser | |
| 4/02 | David Booker | |
| 4/03 | Gay Kubik | |
| 4/05 | Athena Edmundson | 4 |
| 4/07 | Layton Edmundson | 19 |
| 4/11 | Brandon Stanifer | |
| 4/13 | Gil Dole | |
| 4/14 | Joy Addis | |
| 4/15 | Cindy Miller | |
| 4/16 | Katie Chambers | 12 |
| 4/19 | Randy Starkie | |
| 4/21 | Kristin Randall | 14 |
| 4/23 | Bob Pittman | |
| 4/28 | Tre Edmundson | |
| 4/28 | Sue Rumley | |



WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

What would you do if during worship service, someone nearby has a seizure, passed out or is feeling faint?

Do you know what to do?

At the very least, please stand up and shout for help and for someone to call 911
Perhaps you could call out a name or point at someone willing to call 911?
Someone will need to stand outside and lead the ambulance to the person needing assistance.

Someone should calmly and quickly grab the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which is clearly marked with a sign, in a white wall-mounted box that is located in the Narthex hallway, (between the seating area and bathroom).

Easy to follow instructions are inside the AED container. Once you attach the two probes (per the picture), the machine will determine heart function as well as determine if a shock is needed. (If a shock is needed, everyone stand clear!)

Administering CPR is the last resort.

**Those not physically helping, please pray and know that "you are helping!"



The Fairfield Fire Department provides free CPR and AED training. Call (513) 867-5379 for more information.

NURTURE & CARE MEAL OPPORTUNITY

One of the functions of the Nurture & Care Committee is to coordinate meals for those in our congregation, who may be in need of food or just a friendly visit. We are looking for people who can occasionally deliver a meal by willing to cook a meal or to pick up a meal at a restaurant. Please call the church office or contact:

Pam Guynes, Chairman of Nurture & Care Committee.

Pam Guynes (513) 779-9162

Email: Pamguynes2@gmail.com



TRUSTEES CORNER AND THANK YOU NOTES

THANK YOU FOR CARING AND GIVING

LETTER FROM TRUSTEES CHAIR — APRIL UPDATE

April showers bring May flowers and as I write this update there have been many March showers too! You may have noticed that the March storms were not kind to our building and your St. Mark's Trustees are working with a local roofing company to get addressed. Many in the local area had storm damages and we took the first available appointment to assess what options are available and then to repair.

We started March with an inside **Helping Hands** effort. For the remainder of 2023, St. Mark's Trustees will be sponsoring 'All Church Work Days'. During these scheduled work day sessions, we will identify areas needing minor repairs, cleaning, weeding etc. will be addressed. Our next two scheduled work day sessions with be both inside and outside with lots of weeding and spring cleanup. Prayerfully consider joining us on **Saturday April 1, 9am, Jennie Marshall** will be the Trustee point of contact and/or **Saturday May 6, 9am, Tonya Leguina** will be the Trustee point of contact.

Spring Work Day



What will we work on during 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 heading into Spring/Summer season, please note on the back of the attendance sheet if you can help OR note an area needing attention. A St. Mark's Trustee will contact you. We are also keeping the list of items that we are seeking **Helping Hands** posted on the Narthex bulletin board. The list will be updated periodically as items are completed or new needs arise.

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

In the March newsletter, you may have noticed information about **CPR Training** available at the local Fire Dept. It would be helpful to know those in the congregation, who have completed the training or who are already CPR certified. Please indicate on the back of the attendance sheet or call the church office to let us know you are certified. We pray that we never need to call on you, but knowing who is CPR trained, offers us some reassurance.

As shared previously, the Trustees approved the update of the upstairs bathroom and by the end of March, work is expected to begin, we are excited to share the progress and updated bathrooms as we proceed.

Respectfully submitted, In HIS Service.
Jennie Marshall



Thank You St. Mark's

*Dear St. Mark's Family,
Well, pat yourselves on the back! You have once again brought me through a stressful time in my life! Your prayers and thoughts did the trick!
HANKS FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND KINDNESSES!
With Love,
Lois Hill*

*Dear St. Mark's Family,
I appreciate and thank everyone for the beautiful cards, prayers, phone calls and visits while I continue to take one day at a time and work through some medical matters. You are all so wonderful! Thank you so much.
Love,*



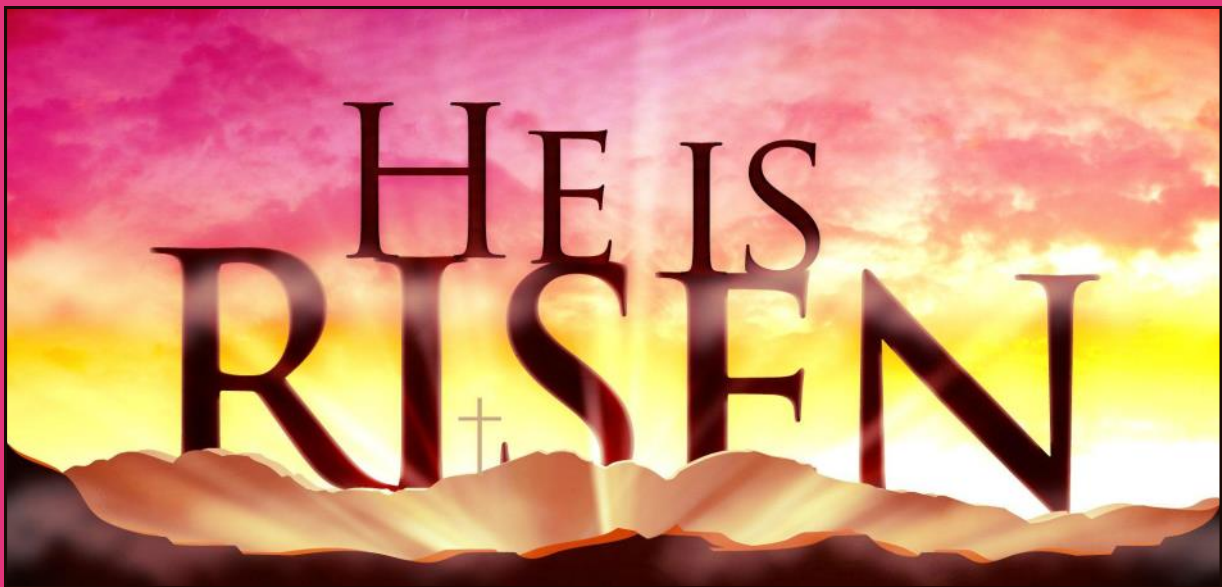
*Dear St. Mark's Church,
Our attendance continues to grow and with more than 54 in attendance at Narcotics Anonymous, many expressed deep and sincere thanks to St. Mark's for hosting the Thursday night group.
Our Warmest Regards,
Hamilton Middletown Area of Narcotics Anonymous*



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 APRIL 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)