

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.

JUNE 2023

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An Introduction and Welcome from St. Mark's

Partial email quote from Mark Hensler's "New Pastor Announcement":

...We must now begin the process of saying farewell to our beloved Pastor Joe and Linda and welcoming Pastor Mark and Diana Gregory. Pastor Joe's last Sunday will be June 11 and then Pastor Mark's first Sunday will be July 2.

Every joy, every conflict, every "goodbye", and every "hello" made us who we are today. Events over the next few months will do the same. I am confident that St. Mark's will continue to grow and move every closer to fulfilling our mission, "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world".—Mark Hensler (Lay Leader)

—————(Letter from Pastor Mark Gregory)—————

Greetings,

There is an old saying in life that goes "change is the only constant in life." We especially know that as United Methodists, particularly in relationship to our pastors. My wife and I are pleased to accept our appointment to St Mark's effective July 2023. I would like to take a moment to give you all a brief introduction as we prepare for our arrival.

I have been in ministry in the West Ohio Conference for 33 years. I have pastored from the Ohio River to Lake Erie. I have served churches in Felicity (Felicity/Lakin Chapel), Groesbeck (associate), Clarksburg Parish (Clarksburg/Dry Run/Brown's Chapel), Hartzell, Lebanon (associate), Christ Oregon, and most recently Arlington UMC. I have a passion for preaching/teaching, leading, and equipping churches for outreach. I enjoy the relationships we build in the church, and look forward to the ones we will build together. Personally, I enjoy martial arts, outdoor activities (kayaks and disc golf). I am a rabid Bengals fan from childhood. To be honest, I will miss getting to gloat over the Bengals' current success in a place filled with Browns' fans. Both my wife and I are Cincinnati natives. I am a graduate of Colerain High School, and Diana from Deer Park High School.



My wife Diana is a flight attendant for American Airlines and is based in Dayton. She enjoys travel, dogs, and grandchildren. We have four grown children, and 4 grandchildren.

Comings and goings are a bittersweet time in life. In a very short time we have to say our goodbyes to a pastoral family we have grown to love, and our hellos to a new one. It is a whirlwind of emotion. We ask for your prayers. Pray for Pastor Joe and Linda as they move onto new adventures in retirement. Pray for Arlington UMC as we say our goodbyes and celebrate our years here. Pray for Diana and I as we figure out what to pack and what to throw away. And especially pray for St Mark's as we enter this time of holy transition, that God would be at work in all things.

God Bless,
Pastor Mark Gregory



A fun photo of
Pastor Mark and Diana Gregory

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOE

Dear St. Mark's Family,

It's hard to believe this is my last note to you as your pastor. The last five years have been so full. During these years, I feel as if we've lived the words of **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**:

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill and a time to heal;
a time to break down and a time to build up;
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek and a time to lose;
a time to keep and a time to throw away;
a time to tear and a time to sew;
a time to keep silent and a time to speak;
a time to love and a time to hate;
a time for war and a time for peace.

Indeed, we've been through so much! But, through it all, I believe our love and kinship have grown. It's true that our relationship as pastor and parish is soon coming to an end, which means that beginning July 1, any and all pastoral care needs will be fulfilled by Pastor Mark. I want you to know, however, that our friendship with one another will never end. You will forever remain in my and Linda's hearts.



God bless you and we love you! Your pastor and forever friend,
Joe

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

JUNE 11, Pastor Joe's last Sunday, followed by a picnic
Bring a side dish/dessert and lawn chairs if you wish (picnic tables will also be set up)

JUNE 18, Special Guests The Rev. McIntire and Ms. Bell (Chris & Sue) will have a Special Music Sunday!

JUNE 25, Alfred Arthur (our student intern), will preach his last official Sunday with us.

Between **JUNE 11** thru **30**, Rev. Joe Hadley, retired clergy, will be on call and available to officiate any funerals that may possibly occur.



YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY JULIE MISLANSKY



As I write this, May is only halfway over, but the Youth have been busy! We had a great meeting where I shared with the youth the spiritual practice of *Lectio Divina*. *Lectio Divina* means “divine reading” in Latin. It’s a meditative way of reading scripture in which we let go of our own agendas and open ourselves to what God is trying to say to us. It is one of my favorite spiritual disciplines and a practice I wanted to leave with these youth. They were each given a journal to support them in this practice.



Later in the month, we had our Fun Night Out! Pastor Joe joined us as we played putt-putt golf and then shared a meal at one of our favorite places to eat—Cane’s! The next day we held a Bake Sale at church to raise funds for mental health and suicide awareness. We are so grateful to each and every person who donated goodies to our sale! We had four tables full of sweets! We raised close to \$400! Half will be donated to the Fairfield High School Hope Squad, a student organization that supports peer-to-peer suicide prevention.

The other half will be given to the Butler County Community Health Alliance to assist their 988 Initiative, a lifeline chat and text service connecting persons with crisis counselors.

THANK YOU, St. Mark’s, for your overwhelming support!



As I say goodbye, I do so with so many mixed emotions. Many of you have heard me say that being a youth leader was literally the LAST thing I ever wanted or expected to do. But when I was asked to do so back in July of 2020, the word “yes” immediately came out of my mouth. God knew where I was needed and it has been an amazing journey! Being with these remarkable youth has been the most fulfilling and meaningful “job” I’ve ever had. It hasn’t been a job; it has been a joy. I will miss every one of them but they each have a special place in my heart.

I thank each of them for being an important part of my story!

YOUTH SPOTLIGHTS

We have three youth to recognize this month!

Engelle Arthur recently joined us and we are so glad! Engelle has just graduated from Lakota West High School and is headed to the University of Cincinnati in the fall to study psychology.



Jada Arthur is also new to our youth group and she brings much fun and energy to our group! Jada is a rising sophomore at Lakota West. She sings soprano in the school choir and I recently had the joy of hearing them sing.

Owen Becker is a brand new rising sixth grader joining youth group! He is a fellow Cleveland sports fan so, he is my favorite. Owen loves to play baseball and I was able to catch a game of his!



MORE YOUTH PHOTOS ON PAGE 8!!!

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Thank you, Shared Harvest volunteers!



We had 14 members of our St. Mark's congregation who enjoyed an afternoon at Shared Harvest packing a variety of boxes for local pantries.



Thank you for the meals for SERVE CITY



The amazing cooks from our St. Mark's congregation provided a wonderful meal for our friends at Serve City. They are always so appreciative for the meals we provide.



SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 8:30—10:00AM
Marcum Park, Hamilton, OH

Calling all walkers/runners! The website to sign up will be on our Facebook page and in an upcoming bulletin.

Family Promise Vision:

Creating a community where every family has a home and a future of promise.

Family Promise Mission:

To empower families, who are experiencing housing instability or homelessness, and to build a sustainable foundation of independence through a continuum of support services.

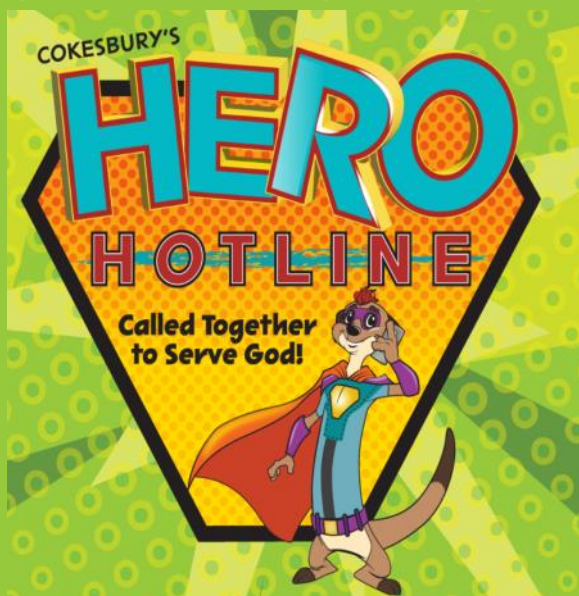
Family Promise Values:

- All people, especially children, should have safe, secure shelter.
- Families struggling with homelessness should stay intact.
- Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.
- We are empowering families versus enabling families.
- Respecting and serving homeless families regardless of life style, religious beliefs, or cultural values.
- All guests, volunteers, staff and board members are responsible and accountable for their actions.
- The faith community and partnering agencies are vital to the success of our program and the success of our families.

We have a responsibility to the community in which we serve.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 9—13, 6:30-8:30pm
 Sign up here using this link:
<https://stmarksumc.mycokesburyvbs.com>



LADIES FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

We had 12 Ladies join us for a wonderful evening of fellowship as well as learning hot tips and techniques on best ways to pot plants from Ann Brabbs.



FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS

Thank you for another successful 'Annual Salad Luncheon and Crafts/Book Sale'

Sponsored by the Monday Craft Ladies

We raised \$1375.00 and we served 126 meals, 16 more than last year!



THANK YOU TO THE MANY HELPERS...



MUSIC MINISTRY



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC CHRIS BEISER

The warm, longer days of summer are quickly approaching, and with that the Music Ministry groups at St. Mark's take a little break.

We Aren't Done yet though!

Sunday June 4

The choir will be singing an anthem appropriate for our communion service.

Sunday June 11

Pastor Joe's last Sunday. The handbells and choir will be doing a selection together titled Shout To The Lord. There will be other special music moments that morning as well.

Sunday June 18

The Rev. McIntire and his faithful accompanist Ms. Bell will be the guests for this Sunday morning service. The Reverend and Ms. Bell are excited to bring a music filled service to the great people of St. Marks!

I wanted to say in closing that the Handbell choir, Chancel Choir, Sue, and myself all wish Pastor Joe and Linda a very happy retirement. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve under your pastoral care and guidance. You will be missed! Pastor Joe marks the 7th minister that I have worked with at St. Marks while serving as the church's Director of Music. Personally, I will miss his love for music and how that has positively impacted the music groups and programs. It has been a delight making a joyful noise with him during his time with us as Pastor. I want to close with the words to a song that I learned many years ago, I feel they express well my sentiments in this time of transition.

The song is titled "No Goodbyes"...

I don't believe in saying goodbyes,
no need to use those words among friends.
If our paths don't cross anymore,
we'll be together again, we'll be together again.

Sweet memories may bring smiles and tears,
though miles and years May keep us apart.
Deep inside is reserved for you, a special room in my heart,
a special room in my heart.

There are no goodbyes for friends in the Lord, only brief
separation. The tears will dry, reunion is near,
together in new creation...so...

Please don't ask me to say goodbye,
no need to use those words among friends.
If our paths don't cross anymore,
we'll be together again, we'll be together again.

*Pastor Joe,
May you always know what a difference you made in
the world by reflecting the joy of the Lord,
the heart of Jesus, and the fruit of the Spirit.*



POEM WRITTEN BY LINDA PAYNE



MY LIFE IS A GARDEN

My life is like a garden tended by the Gardener's hand
He plants and weeds and prunes each plant
according to his plan

Each person in my life is like a flower that's been sown
their color, scent and beauty fill the garden of my soul

And though some flowers bloom for just a season or a
time
the memory of their friendship will still linger in my mind

The Gardener knows that sometimes,
to succeed, to grow, to thrive,
we have to be transplanted so our cuttings can revive

Wherever I am planted is where God wants me to be
I pray, within that garden is a space to just be me

It has been a joy and honor to be a part of the St. Mark's family "garden". You have ministered to me as much, if not more, than I have to you. I know you will be gracious and welcoming to Pastor Mark and Diana. One thing I would like to share is this: there is a temptation to compare one pastor and spouse to another. Even if it is good-intentioned, I have always been uncomfortable with comparisons. God has given each of us unique gifts. Pastor Mark and Diana will bring their own God-given gifts and talents and their own way of serving to St. Mark's, and I know they have the desire to see the church grow and flourish. Thank you for the blessing you have been in my life.—Linda

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

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

Dear St. Mark's Family,

I hope this finds everyone doing well and bouncing back from seasonal allergies. I know we pay the price for living in the Ohio Valley area, but it is great to watch the trees bud and fill in with green leaves as well as all of the beautiful flowers coming back.

I want to take a few lines to give you the finance information for April that just ended. The ending balances in the back account totaled \$115,616. We have been able to meet all of our financial obligations this month for payroll, the loan at the bank, and general expenditures to run the Church. The balance of our loan is down to \$35,905.

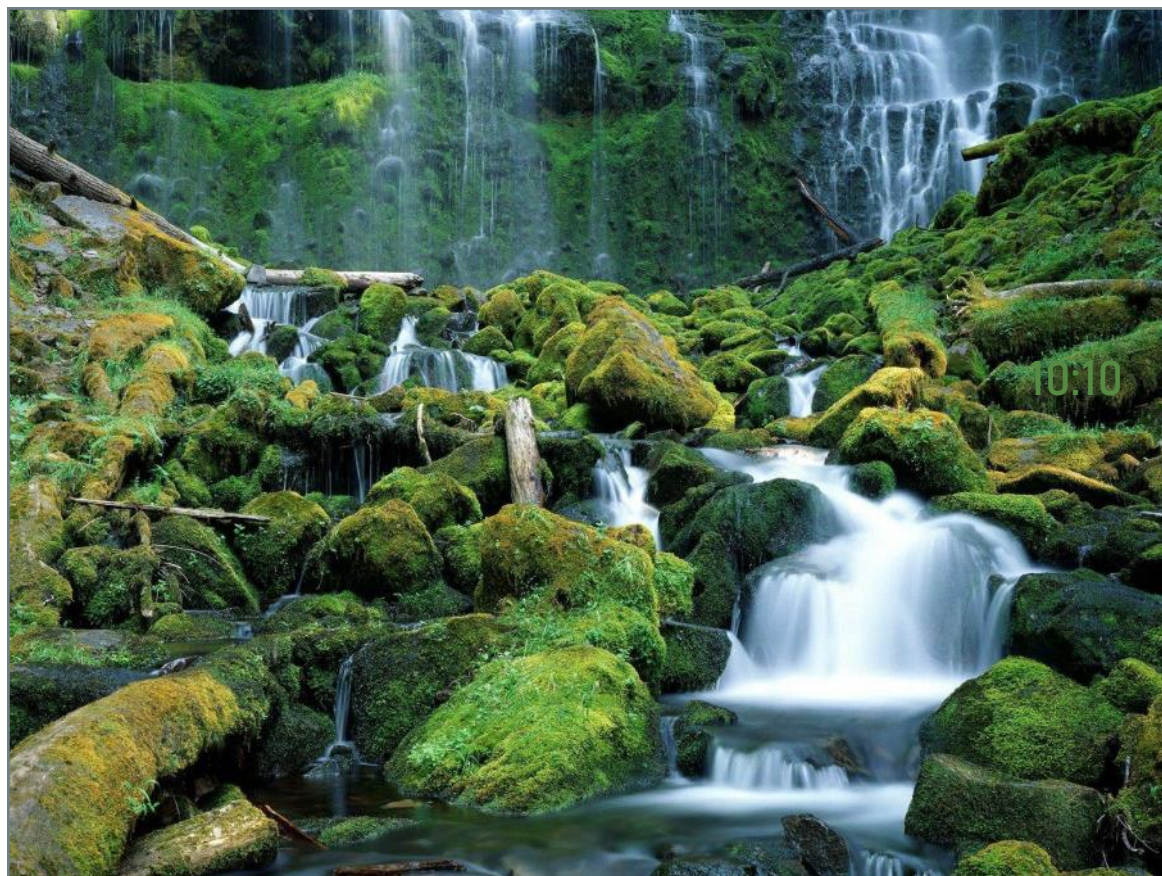
As always, the Finance Committee appreciates your support through prayer and the gifts that you give to St. Mark's.

Thank you for your time.
Gale Goodman, Finance Committee Chair
Bill and Lynne Schumacker, Co-Treasurers

Isaiah 44:3-4

"Blessing of Rain"

***For I will pour water
on the thirsty land,
and streams on the
dry ground; I will
pour out my Spirit
on your offspring,
and my blessing on
your descendants.
They will spring up
like grass in a
meadow, like poplar
trees by flowing
streams***



ST. MARK'S YOUTH and DISTRICT CELEBRATION

Be bold, be courageous, be your best...



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

We are Recognizing these St. Mark's Graduates...



Engelle Arthur
Lakota West



Jenn Specht
Fairfield High



Kai Sines
Fairfield High



Cody Sines
Fairfield High



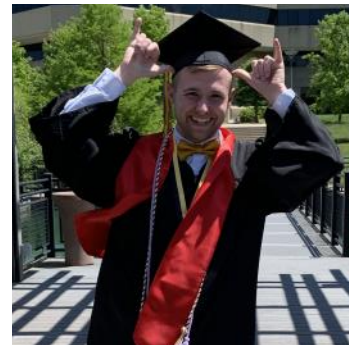
Maddie Hensler
Kent State U.



Autumn Roemer
Western Mich. U.



Lauren Dichtl
Cincinnati State



Zach Dichtl
Masters—OSU

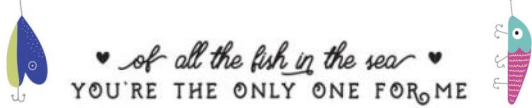


BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, and OTHER

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

June Anniversary

6/01	Rick & Janis Kiefer	38
6/10	Rick & Jennie Marshall	17
6/19	Dan & Judy Scofield	52
6/20	Brodie & Kristy Theiss	14
6/24	Bobby & Jennifer Rinker	28
6/25	Bob & Judy Klingel	63
6/25	Cliff & Cheryl Klug	40
6/25	Tim & Maria Mullen	35
6/25	Rich & Suzan Stracke	46
6/28	Eric & Michele Leyrer	15



June Birthdays

6/01	June Niederman	90
6/03	Lisa Bowman	
6/03	Kym Nguyen	
6/06	Will Nguyen	
6/07	Chris Cooper	
6/07	Nancy Lewis	
6/08	Charlotte Tierney	
6/09	Brian George	
6/10	Sue Beckett	
6/13	Don White	
6/14	Heather McDaniel	
6/15	Karen Smith	
6/16	Helen Mullen	
6/20	Becky Hamblin	
6/21	Rich Stracke	
6/24	Tim Mislansky	
6/25	Mark Hensler JR.	
6/25	Sarah Luken	
6/26	Debbie Hill	
6/26	Ardean Pitman	
6/27	Kristy Theiss	
6/28	Don Stewart	
6/29	Sue McDaniel	
6/30	Terrill Broshear	
6/30	Mike Fitzpatrick	



MOTHER'S DAY (HAT DAY)



**HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY
JUNE NIEDERMAN!**

**Send her a card, she will love it!
Mail to:
3951 Hamilton-Scipio Road
Hamilton, OH 45013**

TRUSTEES CORNER

LETTER FROM THE TRUSTEES CHAIR

Spring has sprung and summer is here!

Your St. Marks Trustees have been extremely busy, the gutters and roof were repaired at the end of April. Tonya Leguina led a team to mulch church grounds. A HUGE THANK YOU, to all who helped and for your generous donations towards the mulch! Also, the team painted the yellow posts and a great big hurray, the Parsonage Bathroom is FINISHED!



Other current projects include: repairing running toilets and sinks in the church, as well as replacing rusty/older fixtures outdoors.

For June, we are busy preparing the parsonage for our new Pastoral family and continuing with our Helping Hands efforts.

We hope that you will joyfully consider joining us on Saturday June 3 to work both inside and outside to keep our church beautiful!

Bill Dichtl will be the Trustee point of contact. Trustees will be hosting Helping Hands throughout the summer, with **Saturday July 1 led by Matt Snyder and Saturday August 5 led by Jennie Marshall, all starting at 9am – Mark your calendars!**



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 continue into the 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 previous newsletters, 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 reassurances.

Respectfully submitted, In HIS Service.

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 in the hallways).



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.





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 JUNE 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)