



# 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.

MAY 2023

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**Annual Spring Salad Luncheon and Crafts**  
*Sponsored by the Monday Craft Ladies*  
**May 4, 2023 (Thursday)**  
**11am—2pm**

**\$10.00 per person**

St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
 4601 Fairfield Ave. 45014

**MAY PASTOR NEWS**  
(See page 2 for more details)

**MAY 4, ANNUAL SALAD LUNCHEON**  
(See page 5 for more details)

**MAY 6, SATURDAY, ALL CHURCH WORK DAY**  
(See page 11 for more details)

**MAY 14, SUNDAY MOTHER'S DAY (HAT DAY)**  
**Wear your favorite Hat to Church today!**



**MAY 18, THURSDAY, LADIES NIGHT FELLOWSHIP (Ladies ONLY)**

**MAY 19, FRIDAY, RUTH'S CIRCLE LUNCH (Ladies ONLY)**

**MAY 21, GRADUATION SUNDAY**  
(See page 3 for more details)

**MAY 23, LUNCH BUNCH at 12PM**  
(See page 5 for more details)

**MAY 23, LUNCH BUNCH at 12PM**  
(See page 5 for more details)

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

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOE



*Dear St. Mark's Family,*

May greetings to you! These next two months will mark major life transitions for all of us – for our young people, for one of our staff, for myself, for our district, and for you. Two days are set aside especially for these occasions, and you will want to mark your calendar for both of these days.

Sunday, May 21 is a very big day. First of all, it is Graduation Sunday, a day I especially enjoy as we honor our high school and college graduates. We will learn about their schooling, their successes, and their future plans. May 21 is also the day we say goodbye to Julie Mislansky, our Director of Youth Ministries. Julie has done an amazing job in this capacity and will be sorely missed. Of course, both Julie and Tim have served in many capacities over their many years at St. Mark's. As you know, Julie and Tim have moved to the Dayton area and we will miss them so much. But wait, there's more.... Later that afternoon, St. Mark's is hosting the Ohio River Valley District Spring Celebration. Read on for details:

### OHIO RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT SPRING CELEBRATION MAY 21, 4-6pm, St Mark's UMC Fairfield

Every year, laity and clergy of the Ohio River Valley District come together to recognize transitions in ministry: retirements, new appointments, leadership transfers, and recognitions of personal life changes. It is a celebration of our connectional life together, transforming the world and making disciples as United Methodists.

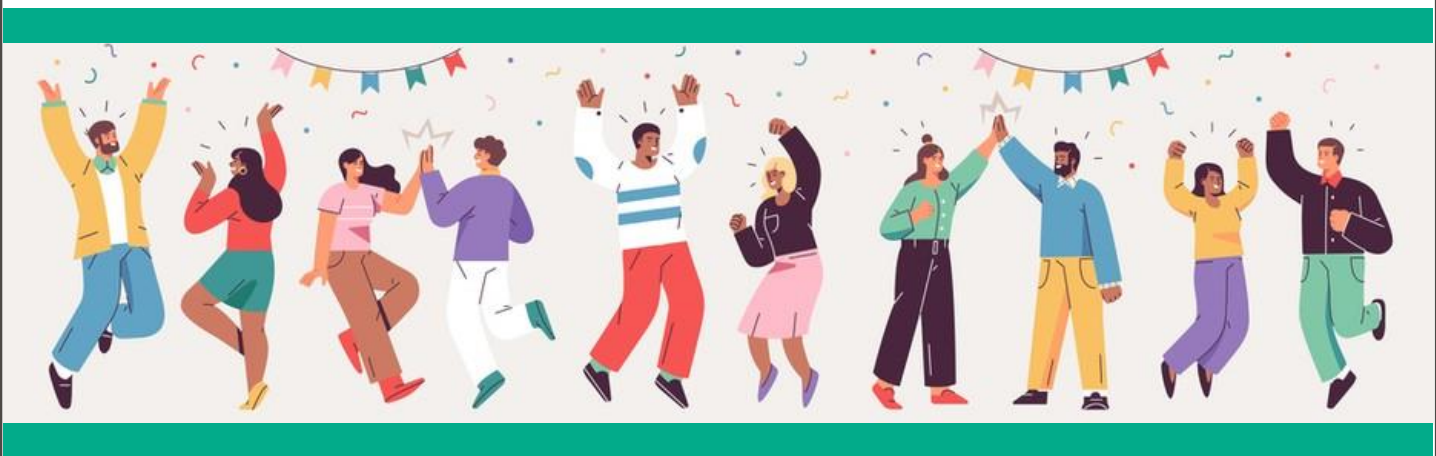
One reason why St. Mark's is hosting is because of my own upcoming retirement in June. We will need greeters, ushers, persons to serve on tech, musicians, as well as cookie bakers (or buyers!), and a hospitality team. Interested persons may contact Pastor Joe at [joepayne55@gmail.com](mailto:joepayne55@gmail.com), or call the church office.

Lastly, please mark your calendars: June 11 will be my last Sunday at St. Mark's. It's hard to believe we are just weeks away. This truly is a bittersweet time for Linda and myself. While we do look forward to this personal transition in our lives, we will miss our church family very much. You have been so kind and gracious to us, and have accepted us into your lives. I have been honored to serve as your pastor.

Even though June 11 is our last day, Linda and I hope we can make it not a sad day, but a day of joy and thanksgiving for our years spent with you. We plan to have a reception gathering for you, our family and other friends as well. We will send you more details on this day very soon.

Indeed, these next few weeks will be a major time of transition for all of us. I pray God's blessings on our graduates, on the Mislansky's, on our District, on Linda and myself and on all of you, our dear St. Mark's family.

Your pastor and friend,  
Joe



# YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

## DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY JULIE MISLANSKY



### The youth have had a busy month!

We started the month serving at the St. Mark's Church Work Day. We gave the upstairs Family Ministries resource room a much needed clean-up! We took everything out of that room, sorted, cleaned out, and re-organized. You can now find what you need when you need it! I wish I had taken a "before" pic, but here's a pic of everything out in the hallway and then the finished product.



The very next day, we served at the annual Easter Egg Hunt. One of our very own youth played the part of the Easter Bunny for the third year in a row, while the rest of us helped the younger ones with Easter crafts, "hid" the eggs for the hunt, and helped with serving food and clean-up. I am very much appreciative of our youth for being willing to step up and serve St. Mark's with their time and talents!



Finally, in April, we met to spruce up the dark, dingy, and "sometimes scary!" stairwell that leads to the youth room. We affixed a peel and stick wallpaper mural on the landing wall. You have to check it out in person! It is beautiful! It really does brighten up the area.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May 13—"Fun Night Out"

May 21—Graduation Sunday (and my last Sunday)

### YOUTH SPOTLIGHTS



Kaden Theiss is one of our newest youth group members and he has added many smiles and much laughter. Kaden is a 6th grader & plays all the sports! Tim & I were fortunate to watch one of his baseball games where he had two great hits & his team won! Kaden

shares his time and talents by serving as a St. Mark's Acolyte.

Parker Randall is also one of our newest members to the youth group. Parker is the grandson of Tari Randall. Parker's favorite sport is football and he plays mostly defense in the safety position. He is also an avid fisherman.



We are blessed to have him join our group!



Youth group members, family, and friends attended the Fairfield High School production of Mary Poppins. Our very own Gunnar Marshall had several roles and he was fabulous! Congrats, Gunnar!



**MORE YOUTH PHOTOS ON PAGE 8!!!**

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

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

Thanks to our generous congregation, \$1157 dollars that was donated to UMCOR Sunday.

ALSO,

Thank you to Charlie & Debbie Bryant who put together 50 adorable Easter Baskets for the children at Fairfield Food Pantry.



## Thank you for Volunteering at MATTHEW 25 on March 25!

Matthew  Ministries

Thank you to the 10 members of our congregation that volunteered and sorted adult diapers and hospital pads that were sent overseas. We had a fun time!



## BROKEN BUS OPPORTUNITY is MAY 6

Come, join the Broken Bus on Saturday, May 6 to help serve the downtown Cincinnati community.

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 Narthex bulletin board or contact Tari Randall.

## SERVE CITY

We have decided to not do an in person serve this time. There is a signup sheet for side dishes or monetary donations that can be given to Charlotte Tierney.



## SHARED HARVEST

Thursday, May 11 at 12:30-2:30pm

There is another fun volunteer day at Shared Harvest.

Sign up in the Narthex.



## DOT DASH 5K on June 10!

Calling all walkers/runners! The dot Dash for Family Promise is scheduled for Saturday, June 10. The website to sign up will be on our Facebook page and in an upcoming bulletin.



## 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.

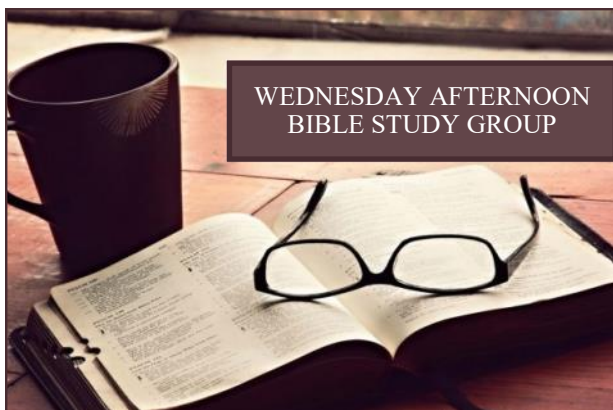
**You are sure to learn something new!**

Have you ever thought about certain scriptures and wished you had a better understanding? Join us to discuss.

**We are currently studying the book of Luke.**

For more details, contact Sue McDaniel.

**Summer break begins on June 7  
and will return in September.**



### **MONTHLY LUNCH BUNCH MAY 23, TUESDAY, 12PM** **SNOW'S LAKESIDE TAVERN** 4344 Dry Ridge Road Cincinnati, 45252 (Colerain area)

Snow's Lakeside Tavern is located in the Colerain area, off I275. Large food menu selection; including burgers, sandwiches, wings, meatloaf, skewers, steak, fish, salads, wraps and more!

*Beginning June, Lunch Bunch will break for the summer and return in September.*



We always have a LARGE group which is even more fun! Reservations must be made at least TWO days before the set date.

**Reservations deadline by May 21, 2023**

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

### **RUTH CIRCLE LUNCHEON MAY 19, Friday, 12PM** (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

Last month, Brenda Smooth gave a wonderful presentation titled, *"The Cross and Easter isn't over...ever!"*

She also gave each lady a special wooden cross to carry around wherever we go.



This month we will have a luncheon at 12pm (earlier time) and note that this is the last meeting before summer break.

We will resume in September.

Ladies, bring a covered dish (side item), appetizer, or dessert to share at the May luncheon.

Entrée & drinks provided by Ruth Circle.

We will have a short program by Linda Fenzel.

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

### **ANNUAL SALAD LUNCHEON and CRAFTS/BOOK SALE** **MAY 4 (Thursday) 11AM—2PM** **\$10.00 per person**

*Sponsored by the Monday Craft Ladies*

There will be much more than iceberg lettuce on the menu. We have a tasty and wide variety of "salads" foods & desserts coming, in fact more than 52 varieties! To name a few: chicken, tuna or ham salad, pasta salad, deviled eggs, slaw, potato salad, bean salad, ambrosia, fluff or fruit salad, pretzel salad, and the list goes on!

While socializing with old and new friends be certain to shop the long hallway of handmade crafts and good used books.

We are expecting a very, very large crowd this year!

We look forward to seeing you there.

For more details, contact Tomie O'Sullivan.



# MUSIC MINISTRY



## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC CHRIS BEISER

Music has made a wonderful difference in many lives here in our church family.

**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 how it's played or sung it's a great part of our 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're taking in the moments of the music filling the service. Powerful!!

### Music is a preview to what Heaven will be like



In Revelation what are the people doing around the throne of God? They are singing praises to God. I personally can't wait to spend eternity praising God in that huge choir...can't you just hear Victory In Jesus?!?!)

### Music is an inspiration for any mood or event



In the darkest times or times of great celebration, church music pulls us out of sorrow or pulls us into even greater times of joy. Whatever need we have God has provided the music for that exact moment.

### Music is Biblical



Psalms is an entire book of the Bible that was originally set to music! And Colossians 3:16 says, *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your heart to God.* Music is a huge part of a Christian life and we love having it be that way.

### Music Glorifies God!



There are many styles and ways church music can be performed. We have such a great diversity of talent in our own congregation. We love the ways each musician expresses the lyrics and notes that are played and sung, not for performance sake but to glorify His name.

What a blessing to be a part of a congregation that loves music! Music makes a difference at St. Mark's month after month, year after year. I look forward to making a joyful noise with all you through the rest 2023 and beyond!

## POEM WRITTEN BY LINDA PAYNE

### AWE—FILLED SILENCE

Let awe-filled silence be my prayer,  
though all around me chaos roars.  
Be still my agitated soul,  
give ear to whispered holiness.

With quiet, reverent joyfulness,  
let awe-filled silence be my song.  
I'll breathe in sweet serenity  
and let the world's distractions flee.

God's presence fills my mind and soul,  
a light that shines within, without.  
Let awe-filled silence be my way  
as gentle actions I'll express

with kind and loving humbleness.  
My acts of worship, I'll not flout,  
but with a sense of thankfulness,  
let awe-filled silence be my shout.



# FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

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

*Dear St. Mark's Family,*

Here we are again. Spring has come back around, the days are getting longer and warmer, and the mornings are full of the sounds of the birds chirping. I love spring mornings.

*To me, they hold a promise of a new beginning – something to look forward to.*



## Matthew 5:16

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

It is with a sense of gratitude that I report, we had the best March with regards to Giving Received in several years. That coupled with a strong February, gives us a year-to-date Giving Amount at \$92,581. Year-to-date spending shows our expenses at \$80,908.87. Which with the help of everyone, we have been able to pay all our expenses, the loan, and we have been able to pay some apportionments.

The ending balances in the bank accounts totaled \$116,233. Here is the monthly reminder, we all need to remember that \$44,150 of that amount can only be used for improvements and repairs to the property of our Church campus.

I think it is only fair to mention that the recent bout with Covid that has hit us in April has taken a toll on our attendance and on us financially. Please keep in mind that even though many of us could not attend worship, the expenses of the Church have continued. April is proving to be a challenge. With the strong beginning of the year, Bill is managing the outflow of bills; and right now we are in a good position.

I hope that soon, we will have this round of Covid behind us and we can once again all be together in worship and fellowship. As always, the Finance Committee thanks you for your support of St. Mark's through your gifts and prayers. Please know that Bill Schumacker and I are available if you have any questions or comments about our financial position here at St.

Mark's. If we cannot answer your question on the spot, we will get an answer for you.

Please feel free to reach out to us.

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

# MORE YOUTH and CHILDREN'S PHOTOS

## Making a Difference...

### RESOURCE ROOM AND HALL MURAL





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

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

**May 21, Sunday**

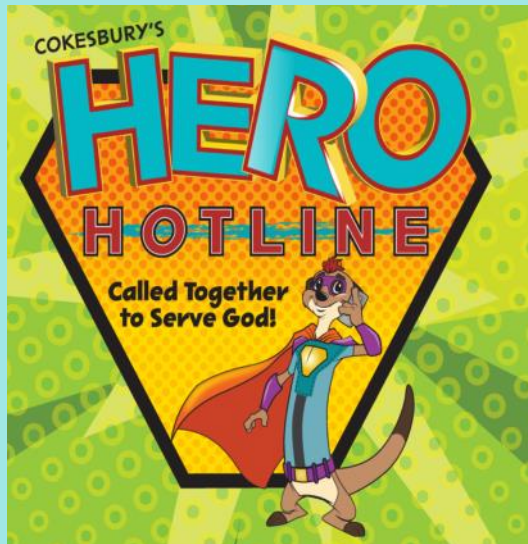
What is Pentecost and why do we celebrate it?

**June 11, Sunday**

Program to be announced

**July 9–13**

Vacation Bible School



## *Palm Sunday Procession*



## *Prayer Walk*



## *Annual Easter Egg Hunt*



# BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, and THANK YOU NOTES

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

## May Anniversary

5/05	Pablo & Tonya Leguina	33
5/06	Don & Susan Moser	34
5/09	Bill & Julie Dichtl	36
5/17	Pam & Hugh Guynes	43
5/25	Lee & Arvilla Brinkmeyer	38
5/28	Charlie & Debbie Bryant	35
5/30	Bill & Lynne Schumacker	42



## LADIES FELLOWSHIP NIGHT! MAY 18, THURSDAY, 6:30PM

Please join us for a time of food and fellowship as we share a CARRY IN PICNIC together under the church shelter. Your CYF Committee will provide City BBQ and drinks. We ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share. Beginning April 30, there will be a sign up sheet at the Welcome center.

This will help provide an estimate on how many to plan for.  
We will begin a little earlier this month at 6:30pm.  
If you need a ride, please contact Sue Luken for arrangements.

NOTE: Rain Date is May 25.



## May Birthdays

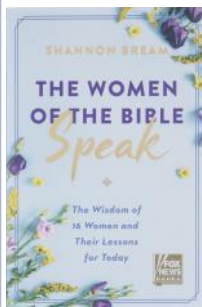
5/03	Kathy Bradley	
5/03	Marla George	
5/06	Beth Ewald	
5/08	Elliot Luken	4*
5/09	Mary Mislansky	
5/10	Riley Luken	7*
5/11	Tomie O'Sullivan	
5/17	Roger Roark	
5/18	John Meyer	
5/18	Julie Mislansky	
5/20	Samuel Saylor	4*
5/22	Gretchen Menke	
5/23	Marta Hollinger	
5/24	Alfred Arthur	
5/24	Zedith Pottenger	94
5/25	Gary Miller	
5/25	Sue Webster	
5/26	Shirley Aydlett	
5/26	Lauren Dichtl	
5/28	Rich Zugelter	
5/30	Betty Winkler	94



## WOMEN'S MONDAY ZOOM STUDY at 6:30PM

If you would like to join the ladies on Monday evening, via 'zoom', please contact Kym Nguyen.

The name of the study book this session is called  
"The Women of the Bible Speak"



## Thank You St. Mark's

*Dear St. Mark's Family,  
I would like to say thanks to everyone for their cards, thoughts and prayers sent to me during my recent health issues. Thank you so much.  
Love,  
Karen Turner*

*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, Charlene Miller*

# TRUSTEES CORNER

## THANK YOU FOR CARING AND GIVING

### LETTER FROM TRUSTEES CHAIR MAY UPDATE

I am loving the pops of color with my spring garden! Your St. Marks Trustee's have been busy with projects around the church too! We are currently working to repair the roof and gutter at the church. The parsonage upstairs bathroom is demo'd and by time you read this article, it should be in the process of drywalled—it's moving fast!

In April our Helping Hands pulled A LOT of weeds, unclogged gutters and toured the church for areas needing attention over the next several months. Thank you to all those who joined us and we ask that you prayerfully consider joining us next time on May 6 (Saturday) at 9am to continue keeping our church beautiful! Please, if you can, bring 1-2 bags of black mulch for the May workday; we will look at mulching across the church and the parsonage.

Tonya Leguina will be the Trustee point of contact this month. For the following month, June 3 (Saturday) at 9am, Bill Dichtl will be the Trustee point of contact.



### 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 reassurances.

Respectfully submitted, In HIS Service.

Jennie Marshall

### 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 MAY 2023

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE



#### **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)*