



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.

JULY 2023

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The Battle Hymn of the Republic

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored
He have loosed the fateful lightening of His terrible swift sword
His truth is marching on

Glory, glory Hallelujah
Glory, glory Hallelujah
Glory, glory Hallelujah
His truth is marching on

I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps
I have read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps

His truth is marching on
Glory, glory Hallelujah
Glory, glory Hallelujah
Glory, glory Hallelujah
His truth is marching on

I have read a fiery gospel writ in burnished rows of steel
As ye deal with my condemners so with you my grace shall deal
Let the hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with His heel
His truth is marching on

Glory, glory Hallelujah
Glory, glory Hallelujah
Glory, glory Hallelujah
His truth is marching on

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat (Glory, glory Hallelujah)
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat (glory Hallelujah))
Oh, be swift, my soul to answer, oh, be jubilant, my feet
His truth is marching on

Glory, glory Hallelujah
Glory, glory Hallelujah



In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea (glory, glory Hallelujah)
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me (glory, glory Hallelujah)
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free
His truth is marching on

Glory, glory Hallelujah
Glory, glory Hallelujah
Glory, glory Hallelujah
His truth is marching on

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored
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His truth is marching on

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARK GREGORY

Dear St. Mark's Family,

"Transitions"

They say the only thing constant in life is change. Change happens. Sometimes we make the change, other times it happens to us. There are some changes we look forward to, others not so much.

As a church and as your pastor we are entering one of those seasons of change. New names, new faces, and new opportunities. Change will always happen, what we make of that change is what defines this season in our lives. It is not so much that we are embracing the change, we are more so embracing the new opportunities that change brings us.

We are looking forward to meeting each of you in the coming days, and it is our prayer that God blesses our time together. That this would be a season of love, a season of growth, and a season of peace.

God bless,
Pastor Mark



GRATITUDE AND THANK YOU

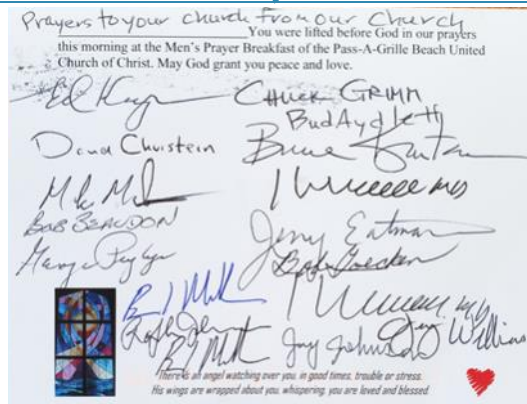
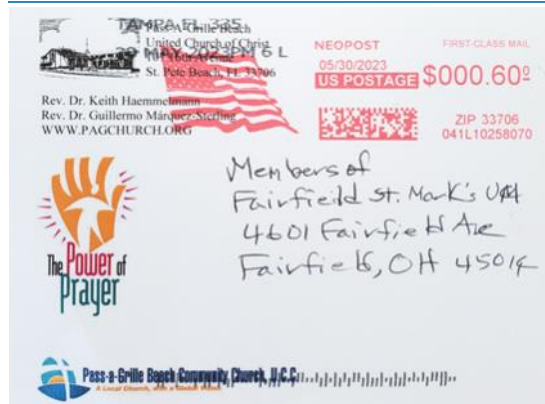


That Was Wonderfully Nice of You!

Where do I even begin to show my gratitude to you all? I have lived over half of my life in this church! My faith has been nurtured by each one of you. We raised our children in these walls! I received my calling while serving here! I have learned so much and grown in my faith in part to my experiences at St. Mark's. I am grateful to each one of you. Thank you for the generous "love offering" and the "word cloud!" It means the world to me! I am forever thankful to my St. Mark's Family.

Peace & Love,
Julie Mislansky

THIS POSTCARD IS FROM PASS-A-GRILLE-BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH, TAMPA FLORIDA



I am very grateful because you were very thoughtful.

Thank you for your prayers and thoughts of well wishes during my treatments.

Sincerely,
Janis Kiefer



Pastor Joe & St. Mark's,
What a welcome & hospitality we received at our ORV Celebration!
Thank you for opening your church for all to gather in prayer, song & celebration.
Blessing, Jenn Lucas



Dear Joe & St. Mark's Volunteers,
We can't thank you enough for hosting our Spring Celebration in such grand style! Your hospitality was outstanding, the cookies—delicious, and your warmth—contagious. It was a high energy celebration that you set the stage for and it was just a delightful day!
Thanks to all of you. Much Love, Nancy



Pastor Joe & Saints of St. Mark's,
Thank you so much for opening your hearts and doors to the Ohio River Valley district for our final district gathering. You served God well by serving us. I look forward to the continued connection with you!
Blessings, Wendy Lybarger



Joe & St. Mark's Team,
Your contribution of time, talent, treasure, and cookies was phenomenal!! You opened the doors & windows for the joy of the Spirit to erupt!
Thank you so much! David Meredith



Joe & St. Mark's Team
Thank you so much for your hospitality, leadership, planning wisdom, and warmth—you helped make the event a beautiful success!
Nick Federinko

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

JULY MISSION PROJECT:

We are collecting school supplies for the children in the Fairfield School District.

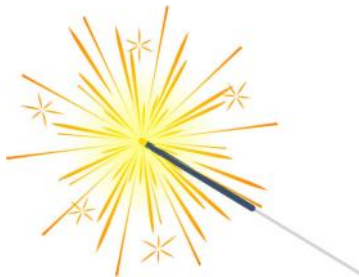
A list of supplies needed will be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The bins are located there to place the supplies in. For questions, see Jenni Hensler.



Shopping LIST:

- Headphones or earbuds (not wireless)
- Standard Crayola Crayons (24 count)
- Scissors (Fiskars preferred)
- Glue Sticks
- 4oz. Bottle of White Elmer's Glue
- #2 Pencils w/erasers
- Yellow Highlighters
- (Low Odor) Dry Erase Markers
- 2 Pocket Folders w/fasteners (red, blue, green, yellow, orange)

Watch for Back-to-School sales of these items



MATTHEW 25 SATURDAY, 9 - 11, JULY 29

St. Mark's scheduled volunteer time with Matthew 25 Saturday, July 29 from 9am—11am

All ages and abilities are welcomed! We never know what the task will be, but it usually involves sorting of items. Whatever it will be, it always involves fellowship and laughter.

Please contact Lynne Schumacker with questions. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



Family Promise Dot Dash 5K

On a beautiful Saturday morning in June at the Family Promise 5K Walk/Run event, we had 4 walkers/volunteers participate. Check out the snapshots!



FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS

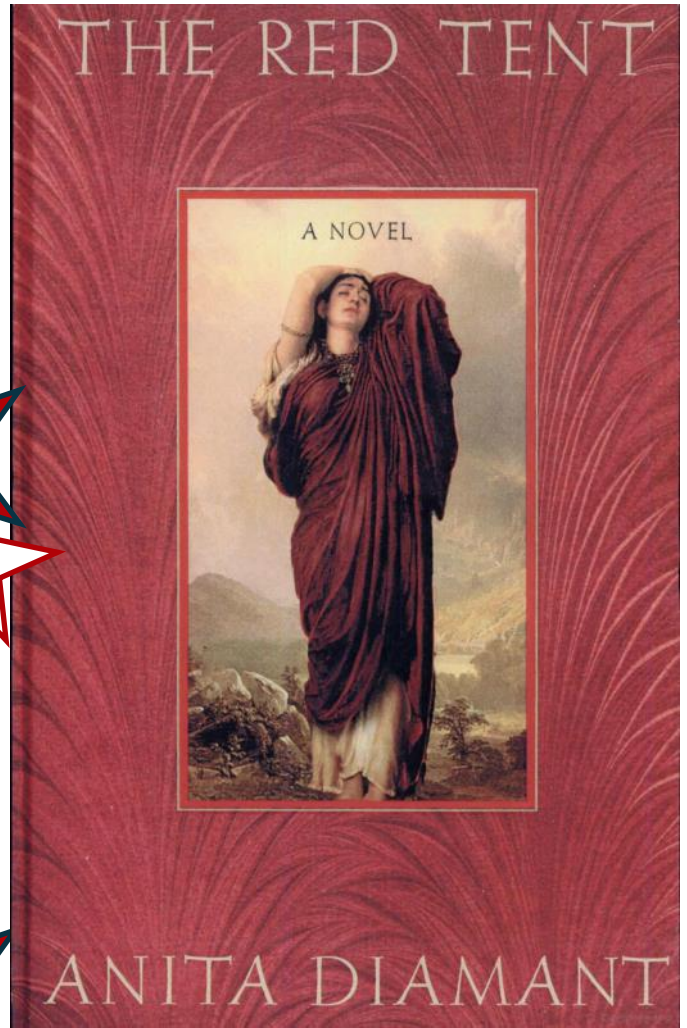
LADIES FELLOWSHIP NIGHT JULY 30 AFTER WORSHIP

We are planning the next Ladies Fellowship outing event for Sunday July 30, after worship. We are thinking to carpool down together, enjoy lunch and shopping together in the historic location of Findlay Market. For more information, contact Sue Luken.



LADIES MONDAY NIGHT ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Monday Night Zoom bible study will reconvene at the end of August. However, we are reading, "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant over the summer if anyone would like to join. We will discuss this at our first meeting in August. Contact Kym Nguyen for more information. Enjoy the Summer!



What is it about?

The Red Tent is a historical novel by Anita Diamant, published in 1997 by Wyatt Books for St. Martin's Press. It is a first-person narrative that tells the story of Dinah, daughter of Jacob and Leah, sister of Joseph. She is a minor character in the Bible, but the author has broadened her story...

MUSIC MINISTRY



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC CHRIS BEISER

I got word that Rev. McIntire, Miss Bell, and the members of the Patient Hearts Quartet all made it safely back to Mt. Mumford. He said Sunday was truly a pleasure and he hoped everyone got a blessing from the service! He said he looks forward to his next visit, until then God Bless.

I wanted to share a little patriotic musical moment with everyone...



I don't remember the exact year but Sue and I took a spring break and went on my first ever cruise. One of the activities on board was you could sign up for the variety show, only 5 acts would be chosen out of a hat. Well...I got chosen and was so excited because it had always been a dream of mine to perform on a cruise ship!

I had to report to the stage at a specific time for the band to run through my song and get a sound check. Sue and I walked into this huge, gorgeous 2 balconied theater, and introduced ourselves to the band leader, he asked what song I wanted to do...I don't know why but I said, "how about God Bless The USA by Lee Greenwood."

They counted it off and I sang, making sure it was a good key. Sue asked if after the second verse they could modulate a key higher for the final chorus, the band loved the idea and that she was musical. So it came to the show, nerves going crazy, it was my turn in front of who knows how many people...ALOT!!! I started to sing and when I got to the part...from the lakes of Minnesota, to the hills of Tennessee, across the plains of Texas, from sea to shining sea, from Detroit down to Houston from New York to LA there's a pride in every American heart and it's time we stand and say...Every place I mentioned people in the audience from that area of the country cheered, and on the final key change chorus everyone stood and was singing along...a moment I will never forget.

Now move forward to the early 1990's, I'm singing in a country show out at Kings Island. The shows finale was God Bless The USA. I was fortunate to be the soloist for the song and was moved every show, especially July 4th weekend to get to the lyrics...and I'd proudly stand up next to you and defend her still today, cause there ain't no doubt I love this land God Bless the USA, and the entire outdoor theater would stand, remove ball caps, salute, cover their heart, even wipe their eyes and sing along to the last chorus. Cause I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the ones who died who gave that right to me, and I'd gladly stand up next to you and defend her still today, cause there ain't no doubt I love this land God Bless the USA.

Still gives me chills to think back over both those two memories...



Thank you to all those who have fought for our freedoms, ones who are serving our country now, and to all those who will step forward in the future.

We live in a beautiful country which God has given us. We have all of those who have served and are serving to thank for our continued bounteous gifts we receive each day.

Psalms 22:27-28 "All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations."



FINANCIAL UPDATE

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



Galatians 5:13

"For you, brothers
were called to freedom;
but do not use your
freedom as an
opportunity
for the flesh.

Rather, serve one
another in love."

Greetings St Mark's Family,

It is that time of the month where I come to you with the Financial Status of our Church. During the month of May, giving was down. We finished the month of May with \$104,803 on deposit at the Credit Union in a combined balance of our Checking and Savings Accounts. We have continued to pay all our obligations. I do not want to mislead you, things during the summer months usually get a little tighter with vacations and weekend getaways. In addition to the decrease in giving our expenses to operate the Church were higher than what we received in giving.

We, the Finance Committee, appreciate the support that this Congregation gives the Church. You have always stepped up when we have had a need, in addition to helping us to keep the Church going week to week. Please know that Bill is keeping us current on all of bills and obligations. As with your own household, the increase of prices for everything has hit the Church as well. We appreciate the Committees here at the Church being mindful with their spending. In July, I am asking Ruth Ritenbaugh and Cheryl Creach prepare and send out giving statements for the first half of 2023. As I have stated in the past, **this is not a bill**.

We are trying to stay on top of any questions or issues that you might notice with your statements so that we can correct those things before year-end. I know that December is still several months away, however, it is better that we address any issues that you notice sooner than later. It is important to remind you, if you do encounter a problem or have a question regarding your giving statement, please contact Ruth or Cheryl directly. None of the members of the Finance Committee, the Co-Treasurers, or staff members have access to your account or to any of the specifics of giving.

I know I close every newsletter article this way – so here goes. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Bill regarding any questions you have regarding the financial position or the Church. Both of us are generally at Church on Sundays, and now that the Choir Season is over, you will be able to catch me in the pews on Sunday. I can promise you that if we do not have an answer for your question at that moment, we will research it and get you an answer.

In the Service of St Mark's,
Gale Goodman, Finance Committee Chair



2023 WEST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Annual conference was held at the Dayton Convention Center in Dayton, OH June 1 — June 3

The theme was Committed, Connected Community based on Hebrews 10:23-25. “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 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.” In the words of Bishop Palmer, “The United Methodist Church has weathered some storms. Our beloved church is different than it was in 1968 and only God knows what we will be like in 2028, but for now, we gather with hope, **committed to God, connected to one another and in community with all God’s children**”.



On Thursday, we had opening worship, a teaching session, and a laity address. The underlying theme in all was relationship: Relationship with God and with others. We need to find a reason to gather in mission. In the memorial service for clergy, clergy spouses, and laity that had passed in the last year, we were reminded that nothing can separate us from God. Our loved ones who have gone on before us are cheering us on.

Friday morning Worship also stressed that we are created to be in relationship with God and with others. Being kind to others leads to relationships. In Bishop Palmer’s Episcopal Address, he spoke of the storm we are going through with churches that are disaffiliating. The storm is passing over and the morning is coming. Look for the dawn, but deal now with Disaffiliation, give attention to it. We will finish up. But it is not the mission of the church.

Our mission is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We learned about a new project called, **North Star Congregations**. They are churches that are staying United Methodist and can help people who have been displaced from their own churches due to disaffiliation. It is a safe harbor for those who are hurting. Again the idea of relationships. The church does not exist for the people who are there, we exist for those who are not there yet.

On Saturday, the Bishop discussed the pandemic of loneliness. He admonished us to not only be shepherds, but to be good shepherd congregations. To step out in faith. Think about times I your own life when God’s “Yes” was louder than your “No”.

Saturday we had a wonderful service honoring retiring clergy. Each retiree would walk across the stage with their family as their name was read and their favorite scripture was read, to spend a moment with the Bishop and his wife. Our own Joe Payne was one of many retirees. Also, there was Ordination and Commissioning Services for Deacons and Elders. It is a very meaningful and holy moment when the Bishop lays his hands on a candidate and says, “Take authority as an elder to preach the Word of God, to administer the Holy Sacraments and to order the life of the Church”.

Conference is also a business meeting. There are reports from many committees dealing with finance, lay servant ministry, and many more. The conference is being re-aligned from 9 districts to 7. Our district is slightly larger and is now called the Great Miami River District. Jenn Lucas will continue to be our District Superintendent. Appointments for clergy are set at Annual Conference and it was good to hear Pastor Mark Gregory’s name read as our NEW PASTOR!

There were a number of recommendations for us to consider. One recommendation regarding selling 2 of the 3 camps was withdrawn to reconsider new information. All others passed. Three of them dealt with Procedure and Rules, Pensions and Health Benefits, and Equitable compensation. One dealt with supporting petitions for the removal of Discriminatory Policies about LGBTQIA persons that have already been sent to the General Conference that will meet next Spring 2024. Another was an affirmation of full inclusion for all people in the United Methodist Church. The Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions proposal called for a commitment to a just and equitable reductions of greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050.

This is a short synopsis of 3 event-filled days. This is not my first Annual Conference and I hope it will not be my last. I had the opportunity to speak to many people that I only see at the Annual Conference, and to make new friends with many others. I was impressed and challenged by so much that happened and so many of the people I talked to. I encourage others to consider attending Annual Conference in the future.

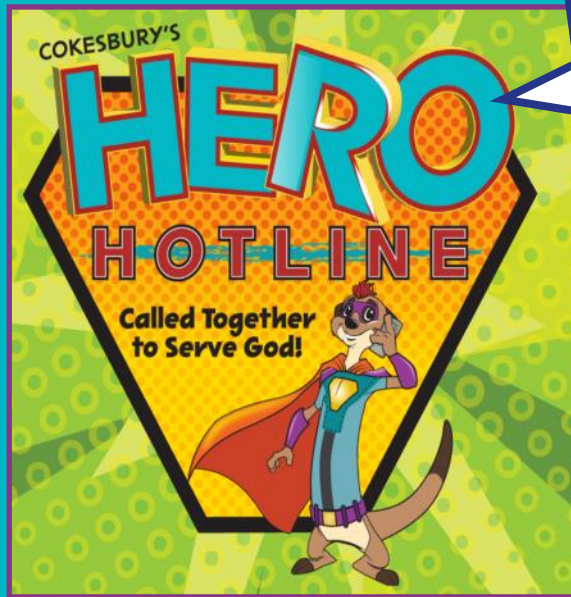
Submitted by
Pam Brockfield



CHILDREN and FAMILY MINISTRY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 9–13, 2023 from 6:30-8:30pm

Sign up here using this link:
[Https://stmarksumc.mycokesburyvbs.com](https://stmarksumc.mycokesburyvbs.com)



PHOTOS FROM LAST YEAR!



BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

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



July Anniversaries

7/01	Dick & Edith Davis	72
7/11	Shane & Brooke Becker	15
7/11	Tim & Julie Mislansky	25
7/12	Dick Jr. & Terri Roemer	27
7/15	Bob & Carol Pittman	51
7/22	Matt & Samantha Luken	6
7/26	Bob & Sharon Hamp	26
7/30	Ira & Mary Begley	46



July Birthdays

7/01	Owen Becker	12
7/01	Rick Kiefer	
7/01	Judy Klingel	
7/01	Autumn Roemer	
7/02	Merianne Cardas	
7/03	Jody Cooper	
7/03	Devin Goodman	
7/03	Kayla Goodman	
7/05	Bob Miracle	
7/06	Carson Randall	10
7/07	Ann McWilliam	94
7/08	Don Kemen	
7/08	Greg Pullem	
7/08	Dan Scofield	
7/09	Debi Brewer	
7/14	Vicki Cavender	
7/14	Cheryl Kemen	
7/17	Ben Chambers	
7/17	Becky Mendenhall	
7/19	Mary Pierson	
7/20	Linda Payne	
7/22	Kraig Cavender	
7/22	Marilyn Stewart	
7/24	Pablo Leguina	
7/25	Mark Hensler	
7/27	Elizabeth Bunte	
7/27	Carol Gering	
7/27	Gale Logan	
7/27	Brodie Theiss	
7/28	Jean Cottrill	94
7/29	Penny Dole	
7/29	Iris Jones	93
7/30	Zach Dichtl	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



TRUSTEES REPORT

Trustees Report

Happy Summer!

Hope this update finds you enjoying the sunshine!

In the hazy days of summer, your Trustees continue to prepare the parsonage for Pastor Mark and Diana, in addition we are cleaning up and out, the upstairs rooms in the educational wing in preparation for New Covenant Church's use. There is A LOT up there! If you or a group or a committee that you belong to has items stored on the 2nd floor classrooms, then prayerfully consider joining us on Saturday July 1, 2023 at 9am. We have plans to clean out and organize the upstairs office and classroom.



We will also have a continual need to pull weeds and clean up in other areas to keep our church beautiful!

Jennie Marshall will be the Trustee point of contact. The Trustees will continue to host "Helping Hands" throughout the summer, with Saturday August 5th at 9am, contact Jennie Marshall for more details. Mark your calendars!

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 continue this year, please note on the back of the attendance paper if you can help OR note an area needing attention.
A St. Mark's Trustee will contact you.

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

Respectfully submitted,
In HIS Service,
Jennie Marshall

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.

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 JULY 2023



St. Mark's Staff :

Pastor, Mark Gregory
Admin. Assistant, Lyn Bucalo
Director of Music, Chris Beiser
Organist, Sue Combs
Director of Children & Family Ministries, Peggy Smith
Pastor Emeritus, Bob Klingel

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)