

# 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.

AUGUST 2023

## What's Inside:

Pastor's Letter pg 2

New Covenant Church update pg 3

Missions and Outreach pg 4

Monthly Fellowship and Gatherings pg 5

Music Ministry pg 6

Financial Update pg 7

Weekly Study Group Gatherings pg 8

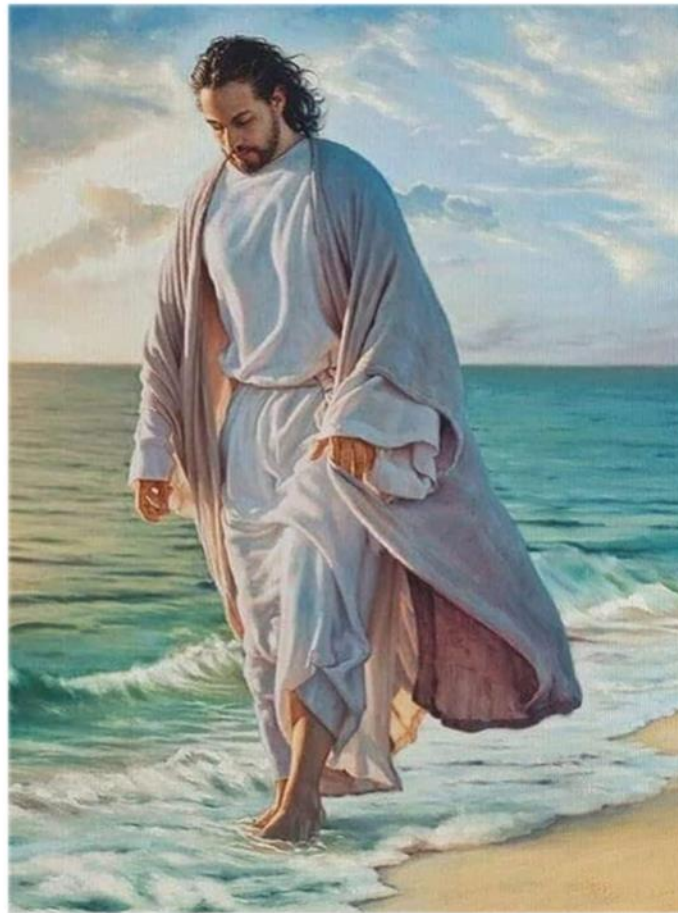
Children and Family Ministry (VBS) pg 9

Birthdays and Anniversaries pg 10

Trustees Corner pg 11

## A FOOTPRINT...

Isn't simply a trace or a representation of the foot. It is a material memory of its owner treading upon the surface on which the print appears, conjuring the presence of the whole body—the whole person. Our feet are not simply the pedestals on which we stand, or the motors by which we move, but the foundations of our presence in the world. Each of these footprints communicates something of both the earthiness and otherworldliness of a divine or holy being.



## HOW DO YOU FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS?

Once you have found His footprints in the Word of God, pick up your feet and step forward by faith to follow His steps, which are clearly outlined. With those footprints before you, you can do what He did, you can say what He said, and you can walk how He walked.

*1 Peter 2:21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in His steps.*

# MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARK

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Moving is always fun. I know many of you have moved before, however there are some that have not moved in decades. The more you do it, the easier it is. Moving is a very eventful experience. Especially when you move to a new community. There is a lot to take in. Oh and there a lot of boxes, boxes everywhere.



One of the fun parts of moving is meeting new people. We would like to take a moment to thank everyone for the warm welcome, meals, and hospitality during this transition. Diana would like to thank everyone for the cards during her recent COVID experience. We are thankful for the SMUMC community and look forward to getting to know each of you.

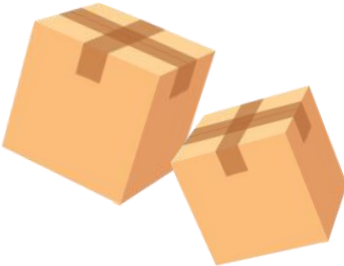
If you would like to schedule a time to meet with us, have us come for a visit, etc...You are free to call me at (419) 297-2062 and we can arrange a time to get together.

I would also like to invite you to join us in worship as we begin a series on "The Fruit of the Spirit". Join us as we explore what fruitful living is all about, and how God can use us to share God's love and calling in our community.

And if you need any boxes, let me know.



God Bless,  
Pastor Mark



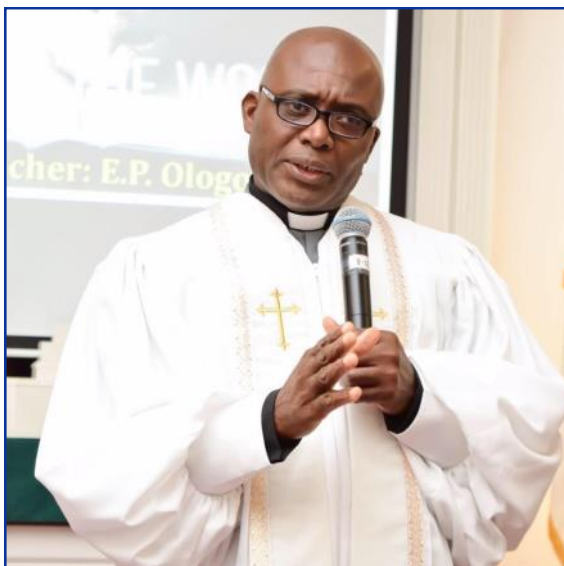
**HOLLYWOOD**



**DAPHNE**



## NEW COVENANT CHURCH UPDATE



We are excited to welcome Pastor Ernest and the New Covenant UMC to St. Mark's UMC. Your St. Mark's leadership team & committee members have been hard at work to prepare for this transition. Here is a partial list of the progress we have made:

- \*Pastor Ernest and New Covenant (NC) leaders toured space and met with St. Mark's leaders.
- \*Second floor classrooms and office space cleaned and prepared for NC move in.
- \*Air conditioning unit moved into Pastor Ernest's office space.
- \*Second floor bathrooms prepared for use, (toilets repaired, water turned on, etc.)
- \*NC leaders received media training, (more to come later in July).
- \*NC furniture and equipment moved into choir room - final move to upstairs before Aug. 6.
- \*Drum set and other worship equipment arriving soon.
- \*Mailbox added for Pastor Ernest and New Covenant.
- \*NC prayer services planned for August 3-5 as a build-up to "opening day".
- \*NC first Sunday worship service will be at 11:30 AM on August 6.**
- \*NC working to secure liability insurance through same company as St. Mark's.
- \*Contract issued for 6-month trial period.

Thanks to everyone for their prayers, service, and patience, during this exciting time. We look forward to this unique partnership to grow God's community in Fairfield and beyond!

Mark Hensler  
Lay Leader, St. Mark's UMC

## GRATITUDE AND THANK YOU



Hi All,

Just a note to Thank ALL who have sent me "Thinking of you Cards"  
It's nice to be remembered and the cards always brighten my day!

Miss you all,  
Love,  
Freida Hawkins

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

## Matthew 25 Ministries

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.



**Because you came**  
*today*  
**someone will be helped**  
*tomorrow*

### **BROKEN BUS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 19**



Serving those in need in greater Cincinnati

St. Mark's scheduled volunteer time with The Broken Bus Ministry. Whether interested in serving by riding on the bus or cooking a **"Breakfast"** meal, there is an opportunity to serve and help those in need down in the streets of Cincinnati. A sign up sheet in the Narthex for those interested. Contact Tari Randall for details.

### **JULY/AUGUST MISSION PROJECT:**

We are collecting school supplies for the children in the Fairfield School District through Mid-August. 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.

**\*Watch for Back-to-School sales of these Items\***

#### **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)



### **2023 FAMILY PROMISE GALA FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 6:30-10:30PM FITTON CENTER (HAMILTON)**

Join this fun filled 80s themed fundraiser for Family Promise on September 30 from 6:30—10:30PM located at the Fitton Center for Creative Arts in Hamilton, OH. Catered food and a DJ spinning all the best 80s music so be sure to practice those old moves. It's not required to dress up but it's highly encouraged. For details contact Kym Nguyen.



The tickets are as follows:

- Table Sponsors (seats 10)—\$650
- Individual Ticket—\$75
- Couple Tickets—\$125
- VIP Table—\$1000 (special treatment)



# MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS

## **LADIES FELLOWSHIP NIGHT JULY 30 AFTER WORSHIP**

We have planned 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.



## **SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY SEPTEMBER 7, THURSDAY, 10AM**

On the first Thursday of each month, join us for a small group bible study. If you have questions, please contact Pam Guynes at (513) 313-5092 or email at Pamguynes2@gmail.com.



## **NURTURE and CARE MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, Thursday 11PM (HERITAGE ROOM)**

For details contact Pam Guynes at (513) 313-5092 or email at Pamguynes2@gmail.com



## Women's Fellowship



## **RUTH CIRCLE SEPTEMBER 15, Friday, 1PM (FELLOWSHIP HALL)**

**Please come a few minutes early for Fellowship and to enjoy a snack and beverage.** All Ladies are welcome! 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, LOVE it up and enjoy the Fellowship!

If you have questions, please contact Pam Guynes at (513) 313-5092 or email at Pamguynes2@gmail.com

The RIPPLE Effect

# MUSIC MINISTRY

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

CHRIS BEISER

**Every year**, during the first two weeks of August, my family went on vacation to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The last week of July was always getting clothes together, cleaning out the pop up camper, grocery shopping, everything down to a fine routine. There was an excitement about this preparation that I looked forward to as each summer approached.



The anticipation each year of a new choir season has that same effect on me! The last weeks of summer getting the music together, cleaning up the choir/music room area from last season, looking for new music selections, all the preparations down to a fine routine.

**Choir practices will begin this year on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:30 pm.**

Sue and I are really looking forward to this journey as we head into our 2023-2024 music ministry year.

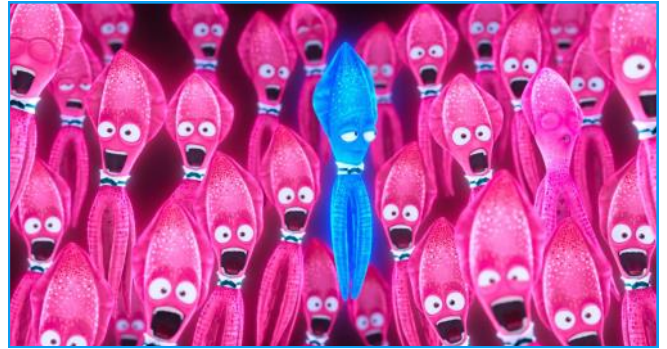


Once my family arrived at the beach and we had everything all set up at the campground, we would head toward the ocean...from our campsite, it was just right across the street! Well now to be honest, I loved the vacation, I do not like the ocean. I am not a fan of not being able to see what is swimming around me, and trying to stand up against the waves was not good because they would knock me over and then I was under the water with all those things I couldn't see. I would walk along the edge of the water and as a wave would crash and break on the shore I would run up toward dry sand...the wave would recede and I would head back down to only repeat this again and again. My dad would pick me up and carry me out into the waves, this I liked a lot! I was safe and I knew he wasn't going to drop, although he'd get a kick out of pretending he was going to a couple of times.

Now stick with me here...choir can be like that too. The choir is nice to see in a church service, and enjoyable to listen too but to actually become a part of the choir is like being in the ocean and not seeing what is swimming around you. The wonderful thing about St. Mark's choir is it is made up of people who know and love music, and those who just love it.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Just like my dad picking me up and carrying me right out into the waves, we pick each other up and help each other through the music. Wednesday evening choir practices are a wonderful time of fellowship and we carry each other through each week in our prayers. There is no audition, so you never have to feel like you're just being carried out into the waves and then dropped. We gather to make a joyful noise and to sing praises to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Then finally at the end of vacation, we pack everything up, gather a few seashells, and try to hold onto that magnificent sound of the waves and the amazing view of the ocean that stretches right up to the sky. We head back home already looking forward to returning again the next year.

**Yes, choir is just like that too! The choir season ends, we pack everything up but hold onto the magnificent sounds that were shared on Sunday mornings throughout the year. We anticipate returning, to be back together again. I pray for those who have been in the choir and have not returned for so many varied reasons, I pray for those who might be considering joining choir and assure you that you will be safe, no one will drop you!**

I've been miscounting for years, but after a thorough investigation of past church bulletins I am going to be starting my **30th year as the music director** here at St. Mark's. I can't believe that I have been doing this that long, but time flies they say, when you're having fun. I've collected a lot of seashells from the journeys over these many years and I look forward to continuing to add to my collection as we head out together on another exciting journey.

**Wednesday September 6, 7:30...see you there!**



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

**GALE GOODMAN, FINANCE CHAIR  
BILL AND LYNNE SCHUMACKER, CO-TREASURERS**



*Dear St. Mark's Family,*

Here we are, August is knocking on the door. The calendar always seems to speed up once we celebrate the Fourth of July. This year is no exception. I can not believe that I am giving the financial update completed through the end of June. At the end of June, St Mark's closed the month with \$30,622 in the Checking Account and \$70,575 in the Savings Account. Please remember that \$45,560 in the savings account can only be used for building and property improvements.

The loan at Park National Bank has a balance of \$33,779. All Operating Expenses of the Church have been paid up to date.

I noted last month that giving had decreased in May. I need to report that trend continued in June. We on Finance are aware that the summer months usually show a dip in giving due to vacations and weekend get-a-ways. The monthly expenses continue to need to be paid. In fact, during June, we spent \$4,539 than what we received.

As I mentioned last month, Ruth Ritenbaugh and Cheryl Creach have prepared the Giving Statements through the end of June. You may have received them by now. Please review your statement and if you have any questions, please contact Ruth or Cheryl. Please review your statement and if you have

any questions, please contact Ruth or Cheryl. We ask that you contact them due to the fact that no one on the Finance Committee or on the Church Staff has access to your giving or the giving records.

Those of us on the Finance Committee appreciate your faithfulness through your support, prayers, and gifts to and for St Mark's. Please know that we are working to make sure expenses are covered and paid on a timely basis. Feel free to let us know if you have any questions or comments regarding the finances of the Church. If we do not know the answer immediately to your inquiry, we will research the matter and let you know what we find out.

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



2 Corinthians 9:7

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.

# WEEKLY STUDY GROUP GATHERINGS

## **WEDNESDAY GROUP BIBLE STUDY** **SEPTEMBER 6, 2-3PM** (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

Join us beginning September 6 for our weekly Wednesday Group Bible study in Fellowship Hall from 2-3pm.

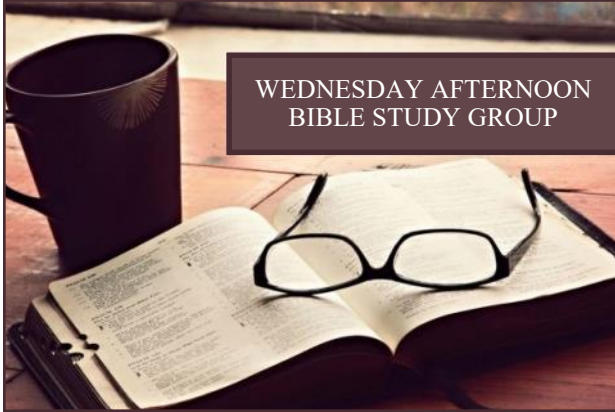
Come when you can and learn about the Bible through group conversation, history, and using Bible scriptures.

We will be studying the Gospel of John when we return.

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.

For more details, contact Sue McDaniel.



## **MEN'S PRAYER GROUP** **WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM** (PRAYER ROOM)

Join the men in the prayer room/zoom each Wednesday at 7:30am. Followed by Breakfast.  
For more details, contact Jeff Gering.



## **LADIES CRAFTING GROUP** **MONDAYS AT 10:00AM** (CRAFT ROOM)



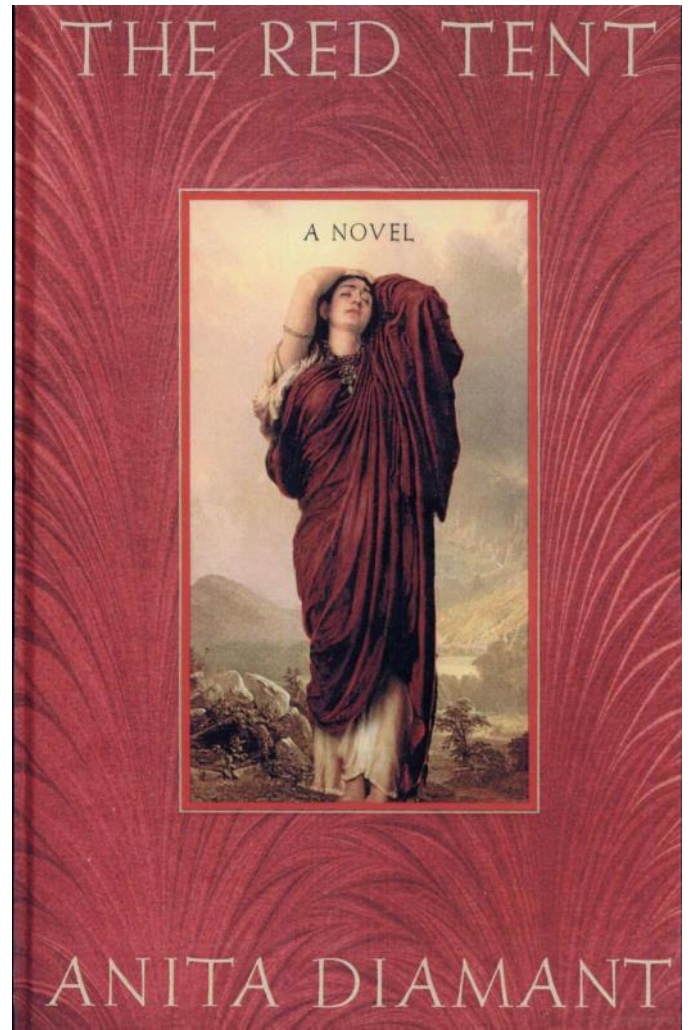
Join the ladies in the craft room each Monday from 10:00—2:00. All women welcome to craft, sew, glue, paint, crochet, assemble, and so much more.

For more details, contact Shirley Aydlett.

## **LADIES MONDAY NIGHT ZOOM** **BIBLE STUDY, SEPT 11 at 6:30PM**

The Ladies Monday Night Zoom bible study will reconvene on September 11.

At this time, we are reading, "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant over the summer if anyone would like to join. We will discuss this book at our first meeting. 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...



# CHILDREN and FAMILY MINISTRY (VBS)

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VBS VOLUNTEERS!

You made the VBS week so much fun! Pastor Mark, Sue Luken, Charlotte & Tom Tierney, Debbie Bryant, Tari Randall, Chris Beiser, Sue Combs, Cindy & Dave Booker, Sue Rumley, Pam Guynes, Jenni Hensler, Kristy & Kaden Theiss, Zach Dichtl, Lauren Dichtl, Penny Dole, Tonya & Ali Leguina, Barbara Leguina, Matt Snyder, Eric Leyrer, and Rick Kiefer.



**SUPER MEER**

**SUPER HEROS IN ACTION**



**BIBLE STORIES BY SUE COMBS**

**MUSIC WITH CHRIS BEISER**



# BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

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

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/11	Devin & Gale Goodman	32
8/14	Gary & Cindy Miller	47
8/14	Randy & Nancy Starkie	52
8/15	James & Melinda Gross	25
8/18	Joe & Linda Payne	39
8/24	Bob & Becky Mendenhall	55
8/28	Mike & Kathy Fitzpatrick	52

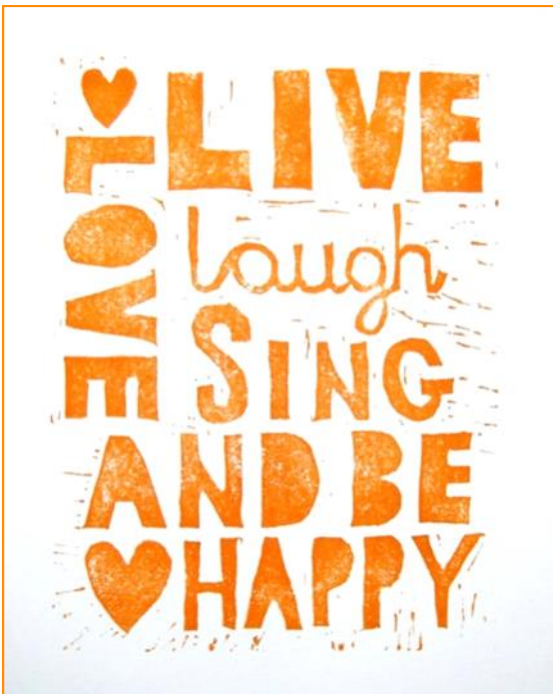


**SUNDAY SERVICE  
FUN WITH  
REV. MCINTIRE  
AND MISS BELL**



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/01	Dianne Aiken	
8/01	Chelsey Cavender	
8/02	Pat Belarski	
8/02	Peg Wyatt	93
8/03	Lois Hill	92
8/04	Maddie Hensler	
8/06	Ethan Sizemore	17
8/08	Mike Anderson	
8/10	Lora Gugala	
8/10	Janis Kiefer	
8/12	Donna Hughes	
8/12	Sullivan Saylor	8
8/12	Nancy Starkie	
8/14	Dick Davis	94
8/14	Corey Gross	
8/15	Jenn Specht	
8/16	Jeff Gering	
8/19	Bill Schumacker	
8/22	Nicole Specht	
8/24	Freida Hawkins	99
8/25	Max Moser	
8/26	Willa Ramsey	
8/27	Debbie Bryant	
8/30	Shelby Cavender	
8/30	Shannon Cooper	
8/30	Joey Specht	
8/31	Betty Stover	93



# TRUSTEES CORNER

## LETTER FROM THE TRUSTEES CHAIR

### **AUGUST 5, SATURDAY at 9AM**

#### **Summer is in full swing with vacations, beaches, pool time, picnics and more!**

Your St. Marks Trustees were busy with preparing for New Covenant move-in by cleaning out the classrooms on the second floor in July as well as having maintenance on the toilets (2nd floor) and switched out an AC unit to Pastor Eugene office.

Thank you to those who did weeding on the church property as well as help with preparing classroom.

We hope that you will joyfully consider joining us on Saturday, August 5 at 9am to work both inside and outside to keep our church beautiful!

Jennie Marshall will be the Trustee point of contact this month.

Trustees will be hosting Helping Hands throughout the summer  
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.**

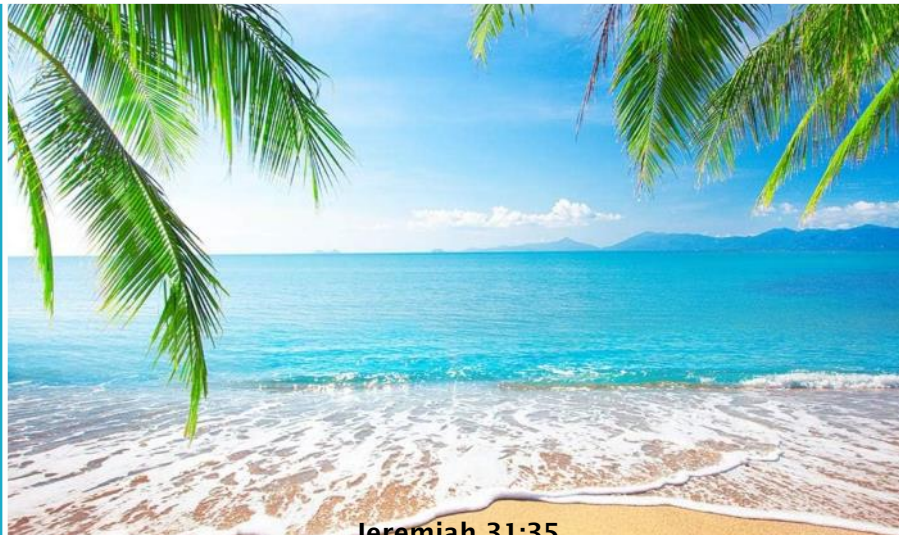




4601 Fairfield Avenue  
Fairfield, OH 45014

PRST MKTG  
POSTAGE AND  
FEES PAID  
ST MARK'S UMC  
FAIRFIELD, OH  
PERMIT NO. 62

## SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S AUGUST 2023



### Jeremiah 31:35

This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD Almighty, is his name!

### **St. Mark's Staff :**

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

*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)*