



# 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.

SEPTEMBER 2023

*As Summer Falls  
into Autumn...*



*No spring nor summer beauty  
hath such grace as I have seen  
in one autumnal face.*

Remember these important dates!

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### **BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 6, WEDNESDAYS:**

HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE AT 6:30PM  
CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE AT 7:30PM  
(See more details on pages 6 & 8)

### **SEPTEMBER 9, SATURDAY:**

HELPING HANDS—CHURCH WORK DAY AT 9:00AM  
Rick Turner is Trustee point of contact  
(See more details on page 11)

### **SEPTEMBER 10, SUNDAY:**

ACOLYTE TRAINING AND PRAYER PARTNER'S  
Contact Peggy Smith and Sue Luken  
(See more details on page 9)

### **SEPTEMBER 15, FRIDAY:**

RUTH CIRCLE AT 1:00PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
(See more details on page 5)

### **SEPTEMBER 24, SUNDAY:**

LADIES FELLOWSHIP AT FINDLAY MARKET AFTER WORSHIP  
Contact Sue Luken  
(See more details on page 5)

### **SEPTEMBER 26, TUESDAY:**

MONTHLY LUNCH BUNCH  
Contact Brenda Smoot  
(See more details on page 5)

### **SEPTEMBER 30, SATURDAY:**

FAMILY PROMISE GALA  
Contact Kym Nguyen  
(See more details on page 4)

# MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARK

## Memories

There are many things we look forward to in Fall. Football, back to school, cooler temperatures and of course sweatshirts. We all love Fall, it is a time of many memories for us.

We have things we do in the cycle of life that give our lives meaning. For example, I have an odd ritual every year, it is the last snowball of the season. I make a snowball and throw it, from the last snow fall of the season.



I also have a ritual that has meaning for me in fall, and it has to do with leaves.

When the colors change and the leaves fall, I like to take a leaf and look at it. I ponder what that leaf saw. The changes, the ups and downs, the things it saw over the spring and the summer. Then I crush it in my hands and let it return to the earth. It is a meaningful ritual that helps me to let go of the bad, and to allow the good to be reborn.

Fall is a season that prepares us for the cold of winter. It is a time we reflect and give thanks for the life and bounty of Spring and Summer. It is for many of us a reflective time, a time to ponder life and our faith.

***"I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work and meditate on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What is great like our God? You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples..." Psalm 77:11-14***

Be blessed as you ponder in this season, the blessings of our God. The joys of life, family, community, and faith. Reflect on what God has done, and how God has worked in this season of life. Have faith that God will be faithful in the seasons to come.

God Bless,

Pastor Mark



# MESSAGES FROM NEW COVENANT CHURCH

## The Family of the Wilsons

We thank God for blessing the Wilson family with 10 years of successful marriage. We ask that the same God who led us through the past ten years will lead us in the many, many years ahead. May God's favor continue to shower His blessings on the entire family. We take our strength from Proverbs 18:22 which says, He who finds a wife, finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord, Amen.



## The family of Rev. Ernest Ologo

The Lord had been good to us and by His mercies we were not consumed. The Lord has added to my family another son. Gladys and I were married on October 1, 2021, and in less than two years, the Lord has given us two handsome boys, Shaddai and Avishai.



Avisahi was born on our first day here at St. Mark's UMC on August 8, 2023. That is why I call him "St. Mark's boy". Mother and baby are doing very well in Ghana. The naming ceremony will take place at our North Legon residence on September 10. We

give God the praise, we give God the glory for the great things He has done for us. We thank all loved ones and well-wishers.

## New Covenant UMC

New Covenant has been in existence for 16 years and has been worshipping as United Methodist Church and is not part of the disaffiliation. We moved from the Westwood location to the Lindenwald location on July 1, 2023 and then moved again on August 8 to St. Mark's UMC because Lindenwald had disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church. Taking the direction of the Bishop, we left the Lindenwald premises with an arrangement being made by the District Superintendent for us to share space with St. Mark's UMC. And so by the grace of God, both churches were able to complete all necessary preparations for the move date to take place in such a short time.



The picture above shows our First Day of worship at St. Mark's UMC. To God be the Glory that we felt right at home. All of the leadership at St. Mark's were very cooperative and have been chipping in for New Covenant to have a safe place of worship. Thanks to Pastor Mark Gregory, Mark Hensler, Lyn Bucalo, Rick Kiefer, Matt Snyder, and the entire congregation of St. Mark's UMC.

We ask for God's blessing over St. Mark and New Covenant UMC, Shalom  
Rev. Ernest Ologo



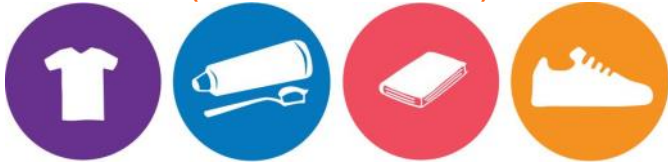
# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

## SEPTEMBER MISSION PROJECT:

We are supporting the needs of the Caring Closet.  
Contact Tari Randall.

### SHOPPING LIST:

- Girls Jeans CHILD sizes 6-12
- Boys Jeans CHILD sizes 8-12
- Boys boxer briefs sizes 6-18
- 2-in-1 shampoo/conditioner
- Bars of deodorant soap
- Toothpaste
- All Toiletries must be NEW,  
unopened and full size  
(Please NO travel size)



## The Caring Closet

### BROKEN BUS

The St. Mark's congregation provided an amazing hot breakfast and clothing for those in need living on the streets of Cincinnati. On August 19, we had 5 volunteers provide meals and 6 that served on the bus. Those people on the receiving end were so grateful! Thank you to everyone who participated!



Serving those in need in greater Cincinnati



### THE WESLEY HOUSE, SEPT 5



School is back in session and the students at The Wesley House will be hungry while they study. We are preparing a hot meal for them on September 5. For details contact Kym Nguyen.

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



Contact Pam Guynes at  
(513) 313-5092  
or Email at  
Pamguynes2@gmail.com

### SERVE CITY ON SEPTEMBER 15



Be on the lookout for another Serve City Meal opportunity on the Narthex bulletin board. We will be serving sliders, sides, and desserts. For details contact Charlotte Tierney.

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

Consider making a donation OR Attend a fun filled 80's themed fundraiser for Family Promise located at the Fitton Center for Creative Arts in Hamilton, OH.

Catered food and a DJ spinning all the best 80's music so be sure to practice those old dance 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)



### SHARED HARVEST ON OCTOBER 3

There will be a fabulous opportunity packing boxes at Shared Harvest. Sign up on the Narthex bulletin board. For details contact Debbie Bryant.



# MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS



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

Please come a few minutes early on Sept. 15 for Fellowship and to enjoy a snack and beverage.

**All Ladies are welcome!**

Save the date of October 20, we will have Lyn Bucalo present her jewelry pieces and talk about her small jewelry making business.

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

## **LADIES FELLOWSHIP NIGHT SEPTEMBER 24 — AFTER WORSHIP**

Ladies of St. Mark's, please join us on our Re-scheduled trip down to Findlay Market following worship service on Sept. 24!

We will carpool down, have lunch, and have fun exploring and shopping the market!

Sign up sheet is located at Welcome Center.

For more information, contact Sue Luken.



## **MONTHLY LUNCH BUNCH SEPTEMBER 26, TUESDAY, 12PM**

(O'CHARLEY'S TRI-COUNTY AREA)

The popular Lunch Bunch, will meet at O'Charley's in Tri-County area at 12PM.

We meet on the FOURTH Tuesday each month at various restaurants within the area.

This is a time to fellowship with your St. Mark's family, but you need to make a reservation by September 24.

Contact Brenda Smoot at (513) 316-1807 for details and placing reservations.



## **NAMI WALK/RUN ON OCTOBER 14**

Calling all Walkers/Runners in our church family.

The NAMI walk is to support mental health.

Contact Tari Randall.



# MUSIC MINISTRY

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

CHRIS BEISER

The time has come once again for summer to come to a close and fall to begin. As I've gotten older I have learned to enjoy this time, watching the leaves change on the trees, feeling a crisper chill in the air, and the excitement of the beginning of fall events.



Wednesday September 6 at 6:30pm, the Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals. This is such a fun group to be a part of! There is no prior experience needed, nor do you have to be able to read music. Talk to Sue Combs if you are interested in joining this exciting part of the music ministry.

Following Handbell rehearsal, the Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals also on Wednesday September 6 at 7:30pm. I'm looking forward to the return of the choir and hopefully some new faces/voices joining us as well. Choir is also a fun group to be a part of, and no experience is necessary, nor do you have to read music, just be prepared to make a joyful noise!



A few things I want to remember and instill in the music ministry as we head into this new season... God is our audience. It's not always an easy thing to do, but we must always keep our focus on not being a source of entertainment on a Sunday morning but an offering of our talents to the glory of God. The congregation is important, and we work to keep the music in service engaging, but our true praise is to the Lord.

As the music leader I promise to continue to ask God in my prayers to "lead my heart to sing thy praises." Worship planning, rehearsals, and Sunday services that begin with asking Him to lead will render results that exceed expectations.

Leading music in a church service is a holy privilege. Getting into a routine of doing the same thing over and over at a Wednesday night rehearsal, or Sunday morning service makes this privilege lose its value. Our effectiveness is measured in terms of our service to the Lord, not by services completed.

The people involved in the music ministry are loved. The music is actually just an object, but the talents and gifts each individual brings in our music groups is priceless. The music ministry is not the music but the people. Music is the means we use to worship God, we must not forget the amazing volunteers that use their talents to make this happen.



I want to continually give praise for the talent of doing music. There is great joy in singing or playing an instrument, it's what we turn to when anxious, frustrated, happy, or sad. Music's highest calling is to bring praise to God from whom all blessing flow. To forget this makes music self-centered and prideful. Sue and I are looking forward to an exciting time of worship with our awesome St. Mark's family.



*Each of us should use whatever gifts we have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.—1 Peter 4:10 -11*

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

## Dear St. Mark's Family,

September is here! School is back in session!



Labor Day is upon us—fall is coming. I am a summer person, so fall is okay. It is just a preparation for winter, which I am not a winter person. *I think winter should end by January 1st.*

At any rate, enough about the seasons, it is time for the update on St. Mark's finances. The giving in July was \$24,259. Which represents an increase from June, however, remember that July had five Sundays to the four Sundays that were in June. Our expenses for the month of July were \$28,375. Meaning we spent more money than we received by (\$4,122). Year-to-date our giving has exceeded our spending by \$4,631.

The Checking Account had a balance of \$22,949 at the end of July; while the Savings Account had a balance of \$70,575. Please remember that \$45,560 in the Savings Account can only be used for Building and Land Improvements. As a result, that leaves us with \$24,985 in Savings that we can draw from for the daily operations of the Church in the event we need it.

*The loan at Park National Bank has a balance of \$33,063. All Operating Expenses of the Church have been paid up to date.*



By now, you should have received your Detailed Giving Statements. Please note, that we have identified a problem with the statements for some folks who give electronically.

After spending a couple of hours on the phone with the software company, we have discovered that it is a software issue and not a data entry problem. Ruth and Cheryl are working to correct those specific issues.



We will be running statements again in October or November to make sure that the issue has been corrected. It is very important that when you receive your next giving statement that you review it. If you do identify a problem, please let Ruth or Cheryl know. No one else on the Finance Committee or the Church Staff can assist you in getting those things corrected. We really need to hear back if there are issues so we can get them corrected before year end.



I appreciate your time in reading this article and being informed on the Financial Status of St Mark's. We on Finance along with the Treasury Team are being vigilant with the finances of the Church. Please feel free to contact myself or Bill if you have questions. We appreciate your support of St Mark's.

Take care and we will see you on Sunday,  
Gale Goodman, Finance Committee Chair

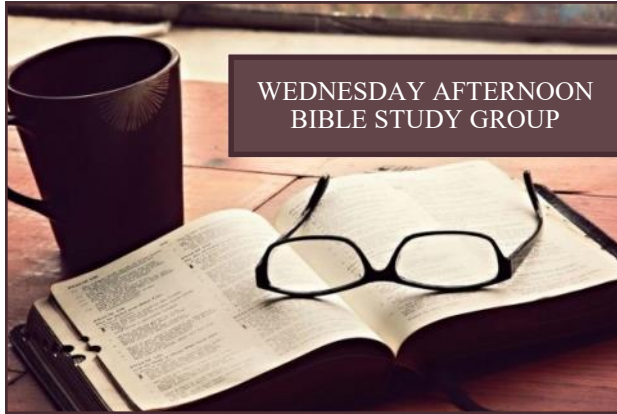
Bill and Lynne Schumacker, Co-Treasurers

# 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.



## 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)

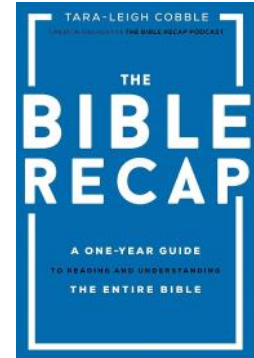


Join the ladies in the craft room each Monday from 10:00—2:00. All women welcome to craft, sew, glue, paint, crochet, assemble, and so much more.

For more details, contact Shirley Aydlett.

## (IN-PERSON) LADIES MONDAY NIGHT GROUP STUDY, SEPT 11 at 6:00PM

The Ladies Monday Night Group Study will meet in person for our first study meeting in person at St. Mark's. We are planning a few snacks and beverages and will decide if we want pizza that night. We will discuss "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant. Then in the weeks to come, we plan to use this study guide book "The Bible Recap". It is never too late to join us in our study. Contact Kym Nguyen for more information.



## HANDBELL CHOIR WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM

Wednesday September 6 at 6:30pm, the Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals. This is such a fun group to be a part of! NO prior experience and ok if you can't read sheet music, you can still ring. Contact Sue Combs for details.



## CHANCEL CHOIR WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30PM

Following Handbell rehearsal, the Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals also on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:30pm. We hope to see some new faces joining as well as the current faces. Choir is also a fun group to be a part of; NO experience, NO reading sheet music, NO problem, just be prepared to make a joyful noise!





# CHILDREN and FAMILY MINISTRY

## PRAYER PARTNER'S SEPTEMBER 10

Believe it or not it has been two years since through our CYF, we chose our Prayer Partners. For this reason, we will be updating this again to both make sure we are adding any new children as well as checking those who may have aged out. *(Of course we will always be free to continue to pray for them).*



Beginning Sunday Sept.10, we will be offering this opportunity once again! There will be more information available at the Welcome Center, so please be sure to stop by and take part of this very meaningful and important ministry! ***\*\*For those who worship online and would like to participate, contact Sue Luken at: [suzluken@hotmail.com](mailto:suzluken@hotmail.com) and Sue will match you up with a child to pray for!***

*Colossians 1:9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of HIS will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.*

## THIRD GRADE BIBLE SUNDAY OCTOBER 15 (during worship)

It is the tradition at St. Mark's to gift each third grade student with a Bible. If you have a student that would like to be part of this milestone celebration, please email Peggy Smith or Sue Luken with their full name.

## G.L.O.W. at NIGHT OCTOBER 15, 5:30-7 PM

Join us for Bible Blast:  
Let's learn Who, What, When and Where!  
Bible times, snacks and fun activities.

## ACOLYTE TRAINING SEPTEMBER 10, 6-7PM

Students in grades 3-12 will learn about being part of this meaningful ministry and what it means and how it impacts our worship. Attending the Acolyte Training is NOT a commitment to Acolyte. For details, contact Peggy Smith at [p.smith@fairfieldstmarks.com](mailto:p.smith@fairfieldstmarks.com)



## ST. MARK'S UMC FALL FEST/TRUNK OR TREAT—PETTING ZOO OCTOBER 22, 4:30-6:00PM (Set up after 3PM)

Join us for St. Mark's Fall Fest/Trunk or Treat and Petting Zoo. There will be hot dogs and drinks, crafts and music. This event is FREE to everyone and the community is welcome! (Rain date is Oct. 29)



# BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

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

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/02	Missy LaMar	
9/02	Alethea LaMar	
9/02	Suzan Stracke	
9/04	Ruth Ritenbaugh	
9/05	Mike Booker	
9/06	Carol Ault	
9/06	Andy Shellman	
9/07	Chelsea Menke	
9/08	Pam Guynes	
9/09	Tari Randall	
9/10	Emma Arthur	
9/10	Carol Pittman	
9/10	Parker Randall	13
9/12	Patty Coyle	
9/12	Edith Davis	91
9/15	Linda Fenzel	
9/15	Jennie Marshall	
9/19	James Robinson	6
9/20	Fran Elleman	
9/20	Ruth Stanifer	
9/26	Sue Luken	
9/27	Hannah Hensler	
9/28	Dale Addis	

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/01	Mark & Jenni Hensler	39
9/02	John & Peggy Smith	46
9/03	Dave & Cindy Booker	35
9/04	Steve & Kym Nguyen	30
9/10	Ben & Heather Chambers	18
9/11	Larry & Cheryl Creach	52
9/14	Don & Carol Ault	60
9/16	Kraig & Vicki Cavender	34
9/16	Denny & Sue Mullen	62
9/20	Roy & Helen Brown	15
9/20	Mark & Sue Luken	37
9/29	Ron & Becky Hamblin	44

### IMPORTANT!

Church Calendar and use of Church building:  
If you have an upcoming event please contact Lyn in the church office to confirm dates, times and secure your event on the calendar. There will be lots of parties, events and celebrations throughout the rest of the year. Be sure to get your date in ASAP to avoid double bookings.  
Thank you!



## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER MISSION PROJECT:

We will be collecting for our St. Mark's Mini food pantry AND the Fairfield Food Pantry (FFFP), October through November 5.  
FFFP is in desperate need of canned soups and canned veggies.

They let us know that instead of the usual collection for Thanksgiving, they preferred the canned veggies & soups. They even mentioned that they would be offering less this year due to the economy. So, if you can help in any way contact Kym Nguyen. Thank you in advance!



## Matthew 25 Ministries

St. Mark's scheduled volunteer time with **Matthew 25 Saturday, OCT 28, 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.



# TRUSTEES CORNER AND THANK YOU NOTES

**Hazy crazy days of summer are beyond us, and school has started! It's a busy time!!!**

Your St. Marks Trustees have been busy too! We've had several successful All Church Work Days (Helping Hands) over the summer that cleaned up the upstairs classrooms, and outside keeping the weeds and branches cleaned and clearing out the courtyard. We would like to see our courtyard used more, and welcome your suggestions on ways to use, please see any trustee with your ideas!!



For September, we need have moved out our Helping Hands scheduled day, in hopes of having you join us, prayerfully consider spending a few hours with your Trustees on **Saturday, September 9, at 9am** to work both inside and outside keeping our church beautiful! Rich Turner will be the Trustee point of contact.

What will we work on during the 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



No words to describe the joy and happiness that all the cards, emails, calls, texts, and gifts you all have given to me on my 92nd birthday. You are all a blessing! THANK YOU!

Love,  
Lois Hill

Thank you to Nurture & Care and to everyone who sent cards to me on my 93rd birthday!

With heartfelt appreciation,  
Peggy Wyatt

Dear Friends at St. Mark's

Thank you so very much for your donation to the Wesley Foundation! We sincerely appreciate your partnership and encouragement! We have been on campus meeting freshman students and we take your confidence with us. Your donation helps with swag, food, staff and sharing Christ's love and grace. We are happy to come on Sunday morning to share more about our ministry, just give us a call. God Bless.

God's grace & peace be wit you,  
Pastor Becky (Exec Director)





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 SEPTEMBER 2023



AS SUMMER FALLS INTO AUTUMN...

Know that though your soul may feel parched and barren, you can enter into this harvest season with the promise of showers of blessings and armloads of joy. —Psalm 126:5-6

**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)