



# 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.

OCTOBER 2023

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**IT'S PUMPKIN TIME!**  
So many pumpkins, which do I choose?  
Remember these important dates!



**OCTOBER 7, SATURDAY:**  
WORK DAY (HELPING HANDS) at 9:00AM  
Contact Jennie Marshall or Kristy Theiss  
(See more details on page 11)

**OCTOBER 14, SATURDAY:**  
NAMI WALK/RUN 5K at 9:00AM  
Contact Tari Randall or Kym Nguyen  
(See more details on page 5)

**OCTOBER 15, SUNDAY:**  
THIRD GRADE BIBLE SUNDAY (During worship)  
G.L.O.W. at NIGHT at 5:30-7:00PM  
(See more details on page 9)

**OCTOBER 20, FRIDAY:**  
RUTH'S CIRCLE at 1:00PM (Fellowship Hall)  
Contact Pam Guynes  
(See more details on page 5)

**OCTOBER 22, SUNDAY:**  
FALL FEST/TRUNK OR TREAT W/PETTING ZOO 4:30-6:00PM  
Contact Peggy Smith  
(See more details on page 9)

**OCTOBER 24, TUESDAY:**  
MONTHLY LUNCH BUNCH at 12:00PM  
Contact Brenda Smoot  
(See more details on page 5)

**OCTOBER 28, SATURDAY:**  
MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES  
Contact Lynne Schumacker  
(See more details on page 4)

# MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARK

## "Homecoming..."



*I have spent the last decade in NW Ohio, and the last 6 years in rural Hancock County. I was surrounded by farmland and fields of corn, soybean, wheat and sunflowers. Here is one of the ironies of living in the country, there are not a lot of trees. Most of the land is flat and cleared for farming. Now the downside to this is the fall season, you don't get to see a lot of fall foliage.*

*Growing up in suburban Cincinnati there were woods and trees, and fall was a season of vivid colors and piles of leaves. It is was a very important image of my childhood. The cool crisp air, the sight of a football cutting through the sky, friends gathered in the cool of the season.*



*I have spent my adult life moving from place to place. I have lived from the banks of the Ohio River to the shores of Lake Erie. I have climbed hills and lived in places so flat you can see forever. I value them all, however there is something about returning home. There are seasons in our lives when getting as far from where we were raised is a dream come true, and there are seasons when return to the familiar is comforting.*



*For many of you St Mark's is home. It has been a place of faith, friendship, and service. Maybe you were raised here, maybe your family worshipped here, maybe it is the place you raised your kids. It is a part of your story, your history. You may have moved on to new things, you may have got busy, maybe a pandemic forced you to adopt new habits. Yet in all this, it is still home.*

*Fall is a season when we dig deep into things that comfort us, remind us of our roots and where we have been. In this season of thinking about home, I invite you to have a homecoming, a return to your roots of faith and friendship. There is no place like home. Join us in worship this season to remember things that matter and make us who we are. It is good for the soul.*

*God Bless,  
Pastor Mark*

**P.S. Speaking of family, did you notice our latest addition?  
Meet our sweet pup, "Winnie"**





# MESSAGES FROM NEW COVENANT CHURCH



## **YOU PAUSED YOUR CAREER FOR ME — GHANAIAN PROFESSOR EULOGIZES WIFE**

A Ghanaian Professor at the Northern Kentucky University, Faculty of Informatics, Professor Tony Tsetse has in a very emotional and heartwarming message described his wife as a woman whose kind is yet to be born. Prof. Tony Tsetse, an alumina of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, KNUST, Kumasi revealed that, his wife Evelyn Mawuenya Tsetse at a point in time when their relationship was at an infant stage had to pause her career so he could pursue his career something he does not take it lightly.



Tony and Evelyn met when they were both students. On 14th June, 2003, the traditional marriage was performed to the admiration of family members and friends in Ghana considering the short spine of the relationship at the time after which Tony traveled to Denmark to further his education.

Shortly after that, on November 20, 2003, at the International Christian Community Church in Copenhagen, Denmark, the white wedding was performed regardless of the difficulties he was going

through as an international student. Twenty years down the line, the couple with three beautiful kids, Marvin, Mirabel and...decided to renew their vows in a simple but classy and exquisite ceremony at First Baptist Church, Cold Spring, Kentucky, USA.

The 20th anniversary vow renewal ceremony which was capped with a dinner was attended by family members, colleagues in the academia, friends, classmates and church members with some coming from Ghana, UK and other parts of the United States.

The Head Pastor of New Covenant United Methodist Church in Cincinnati Ohio, Pastor Ernest Padi Ologo who officiated the ceremony was enthused about the success story of the couple. He admonished them to be worthy ambassadors of Christ through their marriage.

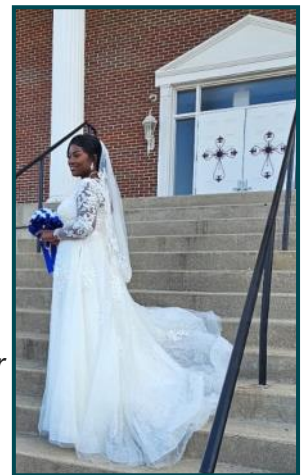
When the jovial young Professor of international repute was given the opportunity to reaffirm his love or otherwise to his smashing High school looking like Evelyn in her all white wedding gown, Professor Tony Tsetse demonstrated his teaching skills by carefully crafting words to suit the occasion and to melt his wife's heart...

*"My dearest Evelyn, I can't believe it is already 20years. We started this as kids not knowing exactly what we were getting ourselves into. Over the years, we have through thick and thin; you stood by my side all this time. You have to pause your career so I pursue my career. I don't take that lightly at all. You have been by my side all this time. You fill my heart with joy, encourage me to pursue my dreams. When the going was getting tough, you were my support system.*

*Today, we have come a very long way, I am reaffirming my vow for you. The past 20 years has been wonderful. I promise you this day that the next days of our journey will be better than the past 20 years. I will continuously cherish you, honor you, bow to you, protect you and to always be there for you. If I have to do it all over again, it's definitely going to be you.*

*I love you my sweet in everything Evelyn."*

This message received a thunderous applause from the congregation whilst Evelyn was seen shedding tears of joy and gratitude.



Mrs. Evelyn Tsetse whose message to her dearest husband, Kofi Tsetse was interspersed with giggling and little drops of tears like young girl being wooed for the first time, said, "Allowing you into my orbit is the best decision I have ever taken in my entire life."





# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

## OCTOBER to NOVEMBER 5 MISSION PROJECT:

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



St. Mark's Pantry Needs are:  
Peanut Butter, Canned proteins (Tuna, Chicken, Hash, Spam, etc.), Soups, Spaghetti sauce, Canned and Boxed Pasta, Canned Fruits and Veggies, Cereal, Instant Oatmeal, Hamburger and Tuna Helper, etc.

There are collection bins in the Narthex. We know the need is high because St. Mark's pantry is often depleted as soon as items are placed within it. For more information, contact Kym Nguyen.

Thank you in advance!



## 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.



## NAMI WALK/RUN 5K on OCTOBER 14

Calling all Walkers/Runners in our church family. The NAMI walk is to support mental health. Contact Tari Randall.



## MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES OCTOBER 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.



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



# MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS



## **MONTHLY LUNCH BUNCH** **OCTOBER 24, TUESDAY, 12PM** (The Back Porch)

The popular Lunch Bunch, will meet at The Back Porch located at **9626 Princeton-Glendale Road, 45011**.

This is a group to just come together and have fellowship with your St. Mark's family. There is no joining or requirement, so come when you can but you must make reservation by October 22.

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



## **RUTH CIRCLE** **OCTOBER 20, FRIDAY, 1PM** (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

**All Women are Welcome!**

*A women's circle is a sacred space for women to celebrate sisterhood and honor the divine feminine. A circle is a gathering of women who has set an intention to connect with and support each other.*

*Women's circles and groups have a long and varied history that dates back to ancient cultures.*

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



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# MUSIC MINISTRY

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

CHRIS BEISER

**Music to many of us is as essential to our lives as eating and breathing!**

We hear music everywhere...at home, the gym, parties and stores. It's a soundtrack to our lives.



I recently read an article that said seasons affect the music that we listen to. As we head into fall, the weather gets cooler the days are shorter and the blankets come out for wrapping up in during our TV time. The study results stated that we lean toward blues, jazz, classical and folk music during this time. There tends to be a fondness for music in the autumn that is more complex and serious.

To every thing there is a season,  
and a time to every purpose under the heaven.  
**Ecclesiastes 3:1**



Music is boundless with a wide range of styles and expressions that everyone can enjoy...BUT do you know what music we turn to in every season?  
Hymns!



The beauty of hymns are that they are simple and easy to learn.  
Hymns can be sung with or without music.

An individual singing them experiences simplicity rather than being overpowered by a style. Hymns contain positive messages which are perfect for any mood, they can be energizing which carries you through anything life throws your way!

So as the seasons begin to change, find comfort in the singing of a hymn, they are good for any mood or reason.

**Then enjoy yourself by going and jumping in a big pile of leaves!!!**



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

**Dear St. Mark's Family,**

**Here we are into October already!  
It is hard to believe that fall is upon us and  
summer has slipped away.**

Recently, Bill and I spoke to the Congregation during worship. We noted that the giving has been low since April. We are covering the operating expenses; however, we are cutting into the financial reserves that we have to cover those expenses.

"Autumn carries more  
gold in its pocket than  
all the other seasons."

**JIM BISHOP**



As was mentioned, several factors have contributed to this short fall. The covid outbreak in April that several affected attendance, the transition of a new pastor to our church, and the cost of living that has increased in the last several months. I noted above that the operating expenses to run the church have been kept current. Those operating expenses include the following: salaries for the staff, the utility bills for the church, general cleaning and maintenance of the building, and the loan we have at Park National. We have made payments for the apportionments that are due to the District Conference. Please keep in mind St. Mark's portion of the apportionments increased to \$34,157 for 2023. To date, we have been able to pay \$12,154. Which equates to a balance due of \$22,003. We want you to know that when we do have the funds, we have been sending payments in against the balance due for the apportionments.

Ruth and Cheryl will be preparing the giving statements through the end of September and those will be mailed out to you sometime in October. Please take time to review your statement when you receive it. There were several errors found in the electronic upload of data from the online giving portal to the software we have here at St Mark's. Those errors were investigated and all of them have been corrected. So, we are asking that you take a few minutes, review the statements. If you do find an error, please contact Ruth Ritenbaugh or Cheryl Creach. They are the only two who can research and correct any errors. No one on the church staff or the finance committee has access to the giving records.

We are hopeful that giving will start to rebound and we will be able to finish the year on a more solid note. Please know that we are doing everything we can to make sure that St Mark's continues to operate smoothly. We appreciate any help that you can give us to make that commitment a reality. We are confident that the Congregation will pull together to make a positive end to the year we know as 2023.

As always, Bill and I are available for questions or comments regarding the financial status of St. Mark's. We will be happy to address any concerns that you have. Please reach out to us.





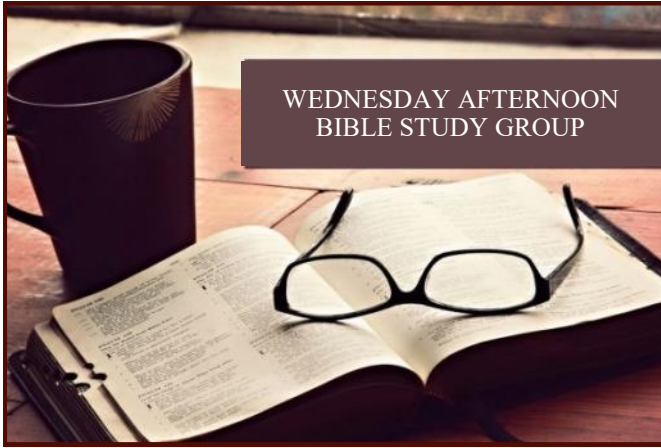
# WEEKLY STUDY GROUP GATHERINGS

## WEDNESDAY GROUP BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS 2-3PM (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

Join us every Wednesday for 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 are studying the Gospel of John*

Come fellowship, learn something new, or maybe you have knowledge to share with the group! We are open to everyone for discussion. 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 GROUP STUDY OCTOBER 2 at 6:00PM (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

**\*IN-PERSON THIS DAY\***

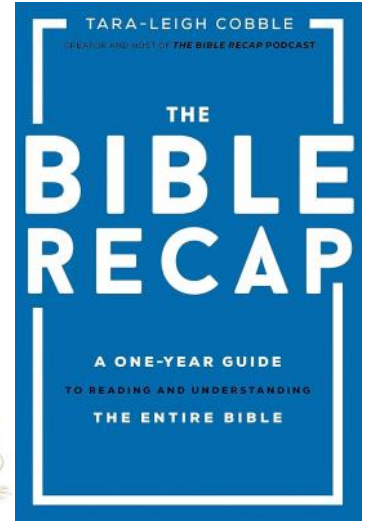
The Ladies will meet *in person* on October 2, Monday, at St. Mark's Church in Fellowship Hall, 6pm.

We will begin our year long study guide with:

**The Bible Recap**  
by  
Tara-Leigh Cobble.

\*It is never to late to join us in this Bible study and discussion.

For more information, contact Kym Nguyen.



## HANDBELL CHOIR WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM

Every Wednesday, make a little "RING" at 6:30pm with the Handbell Choir.

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 practice each Wednesday at 7:30pm.

We continue to hope to see new faces joining us, it's never too late!

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!

Contact Chris Beiser for details.



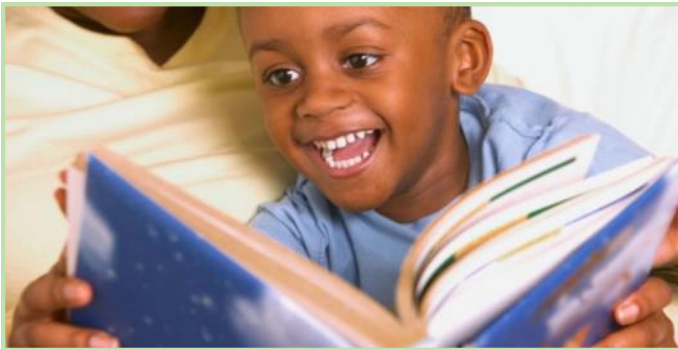


# CHILDREN and FAMILY MINISTRY

## THIRD GRADE BIBLE SUNDAY

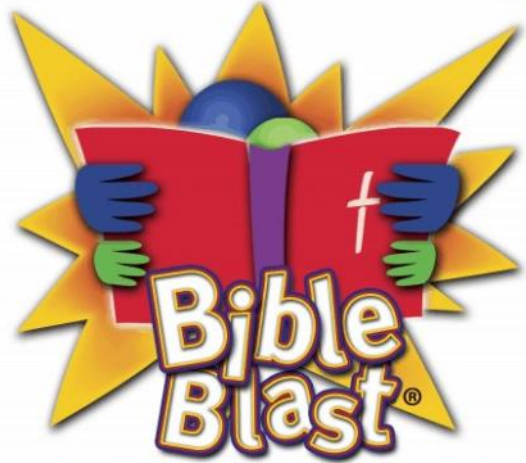
**OCTOBER 15 (During Worship)**

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 -7:00pm

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



## ST. MARK'S UMC FALL FEST/TRUNK OR TREAT—PETTING ZOO

**OCTOBER 22, 4:30-6:00PM - Set up after 3PM (Please NO Dogs)**

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)

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

**Have an  
UNBE-LEAF-ABLE  
Birthday!**

10/01 Cheryl Klug  
10/01 Shannon Knau  
10/01 Sue Miller  
10/02 Sam Davis  
10/03 Jack Nguyen  
10/03 Richard Shaw  
10/03 Linda Thomas  
10/04 Rich Turner  
10/05 Gale Goodman  
10/05 Rich Mischell  
10/09 Sheila Boggs  
10/09 Roy Brown  
10/09 Don Menke  
10/15 Sue Mullen  
10/16 Heather Chambers  
10/16 Hugh Guynes  
10/17 Don Ault  
10/17 Larry Creach  
10/17 Tonya Leguina  
10/20 Anne Hennen  
10/22 Jenni Hensler  
10/25 Eleanor McCollum  
10/25 Ben McDaniel  
10/27 Marty Kubik  
10/30 Maxine Craig  
10/30 John Smith  
10/31 Shirley Howell

99  
8\*

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/05	Wade & Nancy Lewis	62
10/11	Gil & Penny Dole	15
10/15	Kyle & Alex Robinson	12
10/23	Brian & Marla George	24
10/23	John & Katie Meyer	13



*Falling for you!*

## FAIRFIELD DRIVEWAY DIALOGUES OCTOBER 4, CHURCH SHELTER at 6:30PM

The City of Fairfield will have a neighborhood driveway dialogue under the church shelter at 6:30pm on Wednesday. All are welcome to join regarding community improvements.

## FAIRFIELD DRIVEWAY DIALOGUES

An evening to discuss proposed neighborhood programs and other ways to enhance overall quality of life to create a stronger, more identifiable Fairfield Community!

**Join a dialogue near you**

**\*\*Please bring your own chair\*\***



## 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!



# TRUSTEES CORNER AND THANK YOU NOTES

## LETTER FROM THE TRUSTEES CHAIR, JEANNIE MARSHALL

It's pumpkin season! Cooler weather has started as we begin preparing for apple cider, pumpkin bread and pumpkin pie, YUM!!!

Your St. Marks Trustee are preparing for cooler weather too. We have had repairs to the nursery heating/cooling, updating the software for our building access, and soon will be starting the repairs on the Boy Scouts Garage. We also continue to have All Church Work Days (Helping Hands) into the fall to ensure our lawn and grounds are ready for colder weather. As part of our clean up, we've cleaned up the courtyard in hopes to have the space used more often. If you have an idea on additional uses for our courtyard we welcome your suggestions, please see any Trustee with your ideas!

**For October**, prayerfully consider spending a few hours with your Trustees on **Saturday October 7, 2023 at 9am** to work both inside and outside keeping our church beautiful!  
This month's Trustee point of contact is *Kristy Theiss*.

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



Thank you for all of the thoughts, prayers, calls and cards from everyone!!! We appreciate so much all that you have given and we are so grateful to have our St. Mark's Family.

Love,  
Bud & Shirley Aydlett

Thanks for all of the wonderful Birthday wishes and get well cards. I am blessed!

Warmest Regards,  
Patty Coyle

Dear Friends at St. Mark's,  
Thank you so much for wrapping your arms around Fairfield West Elementary School's needy families. You are a very sweet church family that truly represents God's hands, feet, and heart! May God continue to bless you as you have directly impacted the lives of our families.

With Hugs,  
Sherese Slaughter





4601 Fairfield Avenue  
Fairfield, OH 45014

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ST MARK'S UMC  
FAIRFIELD, OH  
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## SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S OCTOBER 2023



The path that lies ahead contains many twists and turns;  
be ready for the surprises along the way.

### **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)