

The logo features a stylized red flame on the left, with a black crossbar extending to the right. The text "ST. MARK'S" is written in a large, bold, black serif font, and "UNITED METHODIST CHURCH" is written in a smaller, black serif font below it.

ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Order of Worship, Prayers and Announcements

December 3, 2023, 9:30 am

First Sunday of Advent



Communion Sunday

SERMON SERIES

“Challenging Circumstances”

WELCOME! We are glad you are here.

Please complete the Attendance Pad located in each pew. Pass it to the next person. When the last person completes it, return the pad to its original place, looking at the names of persons in your pew. Greet one another at the conclusion of our worship!

Have a prayer request? Prayer Cards are located in the pew racks. Completed prayer cards will be collected during the opening hymn and shared during our prayer time.

*An * invites you to rise as you are able, in body and/or spirit. Congregation responses are in **bold print** and projected.*

WELCOME/GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Sue Combs

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Are we ready?

This question, put to us on this first Sunday in Advent, is a very personal one.

Christ comes again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

Are we ready?

**Revive us, O Lord, God of heaven's countless hosts,
Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Are we ready?

Ready for the coming of Christ Jesus
with the mercy which is judgement
and the judgement which is mercy?

Are we ready?

**Revive us, O Lord, God of heaven's countless hosts,
Let your face shine, that we may be saved. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

"Lift Up Your Heads"

UMH 213

*OPENING PRAYER

From places deeply rooted,

we gather to light our advent candles.

From places yet undiscovered,

we gather to sing our advent songs.

From places still hidden in plain sight,

we gather to read our advent texts.

From places tangled with disappointment,

we gather to share our advent prayers. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

AN ADVENT MOMENT WITH CHILDREN:

O Come Long Awaited Jesus

Scripture: (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Advent Candle Lighting

PEGGY SMITH

The G.L.O.W. Kids

PEGGY SMITH

THE BECKER FAMILY

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT

Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving

CHOIR ANTHEM "Will We Know Him When He Comes?"

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON SERIES MESSAGE

Pastor Mark

"Challenging Circumstances"

COMMUNION

*CLOSING HYMN "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus " UMH 196

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG "Let There Be Peace On Earth" UMH 431

*POSTLUDE

DECEMBER 17 CANTATA DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE, 9:30AM

The choir will be presenting the "All is Well" Cantata during worship service at 9:30am. Live orchestra, narration, Christmas songs and more. Don't miss this amazing event in St. Mark's sanctuary. THEN...

THE COOKIE DIVA/UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER CONTEST-(FELLOWSHIP HALL)

Cookie Diva: Have a favorite Christmas cookie? Enter it into our Cookie Diva Christmas cookie contest. Bake 2 dozen of your best recipe and leave them in the Fellowship hall that morning, with your name on them. We will handle the rest.

Ugly Sweater Contest: We will also have an Ugly Sweater contest, break out that most unfortunate holiday sweater and be ready to model it for the chance to be the Champion! Remember to tell Pastor Mark that you are competing.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys/Concerns

If updates are unknown, these items are listed for four weeks. Extended concerns are listed under "Continuing Prayers."

- 11/30 Joyce Zugelter passed away on November 29. We pray for Dave and Cindy Booker and all of the family and friends during this time of grief. We share in your sadness as you remember Joyce and we pray for peace and comfort through this difficult time.
- 11/30 Update on Billie, mother of Don & Cheryl Kemen is doing well and is thankful for all the prayers. Please continue to pray for a full healing. Billie is looking forward to coming to the next Salad Luncheon in May 2024.
- 11/26 Mary Lou Knau had surgery on 11/28 and we pray that she recovers quickly to regain strength and patience during this healing process.
- 11/26 Carl Phillippo is working through medical problems.
- 11/26 Patty Coyle is recovering from a fall; she is getting around but is still a little sore. Thankfully, no broken bones.
- 11/26 Jenni Hensler's 5th grade student, who is in ICU at Children's. She has pneumonia and went into septic shock. We pray that God provides strength and a quick recovery.
- 11/26 Peace in the World! Thankful for the release of hostages.
- 11/26 Prayers of Joy & Wishing a Special Happy Birthday to Lynne Schumacker.
- 11/26 The Aydlett's are so blessed and happy to celebrate Thanksgiving day with 21 guests at their home! They went through a lot of towels and sheets.
- 11/19 Mary Lou Knau is having surgery on Nov 28 hip replacement for a second time. Prayers for a quick recovery and strength
- 11/19 Bud & Shirley Aydlett's niece, Tonya who had a double mastectomy. May the Lord walk her through this time and give her the patience to heal and grow strong again.
- 11/19 Patty Coyle's family member Bobbie is working through stage 4 Lung Cancer.
- 11/19 Larry Loos son having upcoming surgery to remove growth.
- 11/19 We pray for peace and comfort to the family and friends of Linda Ross at Hartzell Church. Our heartfelt sympathy.
- 11/19 Pat Weedman.
- 11/15 Lois Hill's son having eye problems, surgery in December.
- 11/15 Iris Jones testing for positive results and for Tim who is now at Jamestown Rehab. Still pressing through medical issues.
- 11/15 Patty Coyle's neighbor in the hospital.
- 11/12 Betty Stover update: Spoke with Mark Stover and his said that the family appreciates our prayers, thoughts and cards. Betty continues to work through her medical issues and now has 24 hour care for her needs. Please continue to keep the whole family in your prayers.
- 11/12 Praises to God for Sue Luken's brother Randy is cured of Lymphoma!

- 11/12 Nancy Lewis as she continues to recover from emergency pacemaker procedure. There were 19 irregularities found including 2 cases of sudden cardiac arrest.
- 11/12 Rick & Jennie Marshall's daughter, Sami Hannah had ankle surgery after falling which complicated matters more since her recent delivery with very high blood pressure.
- 11/01 Terrill Broshear who is recovering from ankle surgery from September 7. She said that she has at least another month of healing before she can begin standing.
- 11/01 Terrill Broshear's niece, Heather who has been battling cancer going in for tests.

Continuing Prayers

Please help us keep this list current by emailing or calling the church office with updates. Contact Lyn at L.bucalo@fairfieldstmarks.com or call the office (513) 844-1818.

For Pastor Mark and Diana Gregory
 All service Men & Women
 Our Country
 First Responders
 United Methodist Church
 Prayer & Bible Study Groups
 For the sick and/or homeless
 Terrill Broshear
 Patty Coyle
 Sam Davis (congestive heart)

Jeff Gering (shoulder surgery)
 Sharon Hamp
 Lori Palmieri (P. Coyle's daughter)
 Linda Prohaska
 Eugene Campbell—lung cancer
 (Linda Prohaska's brother)
 Parkside Residents
 Virginia Shaw's son Richard

St. Mark's Homebound:

Jean Cottrill
 Freida Hawkins
 Gale Logan—Otterbein Community
 Nancy & Wade Lewis
 Eleanor McCollum
 Charlene Miller (Berkeley Square)

Zedith Pottenger
 Greg Pullen—Parkside
 Jean Stivers
 Virginia Shaw
 Paul Schutte
 Betty Stover (NY in home hospice)
 Betty Winkler

BIBLE STUDY LEADER NEEDED AT PARKSIDE

Do you have a desire to lead a small Bible Study group? Parkside Nursing Home is looking for a volunteer to lead 1 time per week. For more information, contact Charlotte Tierney (513) 795-3010 or Debbie Bryant.

YOUTH DIRECTOR NEEDED

Do you have a passion for connecting with our youth and supporting them in their faith journey? Do you have a vision for what youth ministry could become at St. Mark's? SPRC is seeking a new Youth Director (grades 6—12). Contact Jennifer Rinker (SPRC Chair) or Pastor Mark if you have an interest in this opportunity

ST. MARK'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

Check out our online calendar: fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar

TODAY, 12/03 First Sunday of Advent and Communion Sunday

- 9:30 am Holy Communion & Worship in sanctuary and livestreamed
NO GLOW, nursery open for infants—age 3
- 11:30 am New Covenant Church Worship in sanctuary
- 5:00 pm Advent Celebration Pot Luck Dinner

MONDAY, 12/04

- 10:00 am Ladies Craft Group
- 6:30 pm Ladies Monday Group Study (IN PERSON)

TUESDAY, 12/05

- 6:30 pm CYF meeting
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 960 (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 pm Trustees

WEDNESDAY, 12/06

- 7:30 am Men's Prayer group
- 2:00 pm Bible Study Group
- 6:30 pm Hand Bell Practice
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice

THURSDAY, 12/07

- 10:00 am Small group bible study
- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous
- 7:15 pm Handmade Crafts for Christmas available for purchases
- 7:30 pm Ohio Military Band Christmas Concert

FRIDAY, 12/08

- Serve City Meals: Sides and Desserts drop off in kitchen
- 7:00 pm New Covenant Prayer Sessions (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, 12/09

SUNDAY, 12/10

- 9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreamed
GLOW Preschool—5th grade, nursery open for infants—age 3
- 11:30 am New Covenant Church Worship in sanctuary
- 6:00 pm Follow that Star event for families

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT:

The Parkside Giving Tree; Deadline to returning wrapped gifts is **December 16**. All of the details are at the Welcome Counter. Contact Tari Randall. Then we will be collecting coats for the *Share the Warmth Coat Drive*, bins are in Narthex, more details coming soon.

DECEMBER 3, SUNDAY, 5:00-6:30PM, ADVENT CELEBRAION & POTLUCK DINNER

Join our St. Mark's church family as we begin the season of Advent Celebration. Bring a side dish to share and we will provide the Main dish and drinks. Dinner at 5:00pm with program and dedication at the crèche to follow. Contact Peggy Smith for more details.

DECEMBER 4, 6:30PM, LADIES MONDAY GROUP STUDY (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

We are reading the book of Leviticus and meeting in person this session. Please know that anyone can join the discussions at any time, there are no requirements for you to participate. Our study guide, "The Bible Recap" by Tara-Leigh Cobble. Contact Kym at kimbertynguyen1993@gmail.com. Bring a snack to share if you want to.

DECEMBER 7, OHIO MILITARY BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT, 7:30-8:45PM

Join us for an evening holiday concert in the church sanctuary. Mark Hensler has been directing the group for nearly 30 years. The band will be joined by Sue Combs, St. Mark's Choir, Chris Beiser, and other guest soloists. Free Admission! Craft items will be for sale for holiday shopping.

DECEMBER 7 & 10, HOLIDAY CRAFT ITEMS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

DECEMBER 8, FRIDAY, SERVE CITY MEAL

Another Serve City meal sign-up opportunity is on the Narthex bulletin board . We will be serving Ham and Turkey. We are asking for sides, and desserts. For details contact Jenni Hensler or Charlotte Tierney.

DECEMBER 10, SUNDAY, 6-7PM, "FOLLOW THE CHRISTMAS STAR" EVENT

This is a free indoor/outdoor event. Children will hunt for *glow in the dark stars. Hear the story of the Christmas Star and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate. *Stars will be traded for small gifts and candy. For more information, contact: Peggy Smith.

DECEMBER: THURSDAY, ROOM AT THE TABLE

We have begun meeting regularly on the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month via Zoom. We have established mission & vision statements with short and long term goals. We are planning for informal session on Dec. 10 & 17 with Dec. 9 as backup date. For more details text, e-mail or call Zach Dichtl at (513) 446-5740 or zdichtl@purdue.edu to attend an informational session.

DECEMBER 15, FRIDAY, 12:00-2:30PM, RUTH CIRCLE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Next Ruth Circle is a Luncheon, please bring a side to share with everyone and a White elephant wrapped gift item worth \$1.00-ish for the grab bag. Entrée & drinks provided by Ruth's Circle. For details contact Pam Guynes at (513)779-9162 or email Pamguynes2@gmail.com

DECEMBER 16, SATURDAY, 1:00PM, ANNUAL SENIOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us in Fellowship Hall for the Annual Senior Christmas Party beginning at 1pm. Chris Beiser will be singing and Sue Combs will play piano during this event. Please bring a Pottluck/ Covered dish to share. Let's celebrate this festive time together. For more details contact Shirley Aydlett at (513) 894-5209.

DECEMBER 17 CANTATA DURING WORSHIP SERVICE , 9:30AM

The St. Mark's choir will be presenting the "All is Well" Cantata during worship service at 9:30am. Live orchestra, narration, Christmas songs and more. Don't miss this amazing event in St. Mark's sanctuary.

DECEMBER 17, SUNDAY, AFTER WORSHIP, COOKIE DIVA/UGLY SWEATER

A Cookie Diva Christmas Cookie Contest in Fellowship Hall after worship. Bake 2 dozen of your best recipe and leave them in Fellowship Hall that morning, with your name on them. We will handle the rest! Also, The Ugly Sweater Contest is the same day, break out that most unfortunate holiday sweater and be ready to model it for the chance to be the Ugly Sweater Champion! *Who is up for the challenge?*

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE , 9:30AM

This Christmas Eve service will be more Family oriented.

DECEMBER 24 CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 11:00PM

This Christmas Eve service will be our traditional candlelight service.

RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS—NOVEMBER 26, 2023

Worship In-Person Attendance: 103

Sunday School Attendance: 6

Weekly Budget Needs	<u>\$6,294.92</u>
Weekly In-Person Giving	\$1,743.00
Weekly On-Line Giving	<u>\$1,022.85</u>
	<u>\$2,765.85</u>
Special—Designated Giving*	<u>\$1,100.00</u>

**Designated Giving can not be used for Budget Needs*

Ohio Military Band performing at St. Mark's on December 7, from 7:30-8:45PM. Get into the holiday spirit with Christmas songs with guest performances and fun for the whole family. Free event.



DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Contact Lyn Bucalo at L.bucalo@fairfieldstmarks.com to submit content for monthly newsletters on the 3rd Monday each month.

JANUARY 2024 Newsletter deadline is MONDAY, DEC 18!

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

4601 Fairfield Ave.

Fairfield, OH 45014

513.844.1818

www.Fairfieldstmarks.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

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