



# ST. MARK'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**December 24, 2023 at 9:30 am**



## *Christmas Eve Services*

**Worship with us In-person and Live-stream**



<https://www.fairfieldstmarks.com/live-stream/>

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**



**In-Person & Live-Streamed on YouTube and Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/fairfieldstmarks](http://www.facebook.com/fairfieldstmarks)

## **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                    "How Far is it to Bethlehem?"                    Handbells

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the quiet of the night  
A woman gives birth:  
A personal act of faith;  
Accepting God's charge upon her.

**In the quiet of the night  
A husband becomes a father:  
A personal act of faith;  
Accepting God's charge upon him.**

In the quiet of the night  
A baby breathes the air:  
A personal act of sacrifice;  
God steps out of the divine into the mundane for us.

\*OPENING HYMN    "O, Little Town of Bethlehem "                    UMH 230

### **\*OPENING PRAYER**

It may seem naive, in a world of grief, to choose to live in joy;

It may seem foolish, in a world where solemnity is power, to sing and dance to a different tune;

It may seem cruel, in a world of suffering and injustice, to speak of light and celebration;

But you have come, Jesus, to bring joy into our grief, light into our darkness, singing into our mourning; and it is an act of healing and proclamation to believe and embrace the joy you offer.

Joy to the World  
The Lord is come  
Hallelujah! Amen

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE  
The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

\*AN ADVENT CHILDREN'S MOMENT: PEGGY SMITH  
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING THE MEYER FAMILY

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS  
PASTORAL PRAYER  
THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT  
    Offertory                      "The First Noel"                      Handbells  
    Doxology  
    Prayer of Thanksgiving

CHOIR ANTHEM                      "This Same God"  
  *(From the Cantata, "All is Well")*

SCRIPTURE:                      John 1:5  
SERMON                              "Lights..."                      PASTOR MARK

COMMUNION

\*CLOSING HYMN                      "Silent Night"                      UMH 239

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

\*BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING SONG    "Let There be Peace On Earth"    UMH 431

\*POSTLUDE

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## **Joys/Concerns**

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

- 12/22 Jeff Gering as he recovers from shoulder surgery on 12/22.
- 12/20 Iris Jones' continues to recover nicely but is saddened by the loss of her dear friend she has known for many years.
- 12/19 Sue Webster as she recovers from shoulder replacement surgery on 12/19.
- 12/17 Steve Hill's friend lost her 17 yr old son in a house fire.
- 12/17 Mike Fitzharris in UC trauma center in serious condition.
- 12/17 Please pray for Andrew & Priya Leguina as they start their life together as a newly married couple. Andrew is the son of Pablo & Tonya Leguina.
- 12/12 Iris Jones update: She called to let us know that she is in Jamestown Rehab and is healing up pretty well.
- 12/10 Joy! Happy 66th Wedding Anniversary to the Aydlett's on December 14.
- 12/10 Elaine Shreve's brother-in-law Gary Rudolph in PA with cancer.
- 12/10 Prayers for our neighbor Paul having tests.
- 12/10 Lois Hill's dearest and closest friend Phyllis Moxley has passed after many years of Alzheimer's. Keep her family in your prayers.
- 12/10 Prayers for Cincinnati Financial had a shooting outside the main building. Thanks to security for a great job controlling situation.
- 12/10 Ron & Becky Hamblin ask for prayers for a friend, Diane Miller who is having difficulty after heart surgery.
- 12/06 We pray for those grieving the loss of their loved one and remember with a thankful heart the life of Joyce Zugelter who passed away on November 29. We pray for peace and comfort to all of the family and friends who knew her.  
"Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there is a trail of beautiful memories"
- 12/06 We learned that Greg Pullem (at Parkside) passed away on November 20, 2023. "While we are mourning the loss of our friend, others are rejoicing to meet him behind the veil."
- 12/03 Iris Jones' son Tim is now home but still more prayers.
- 12/03 Prayers for the family of Tim Furbee who was killed in a fire explosion in Hillsboro, OH.
- 12/03 Jean Cottrill is in Home health care needing prayers.
- 12/03 Mary Lou Knau, prayers of thanksgiving for a successful surgery on Nov. 28. We pray a quick process to recovery.
- 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 Carl Phillipppo is working through medical problems.



## **ST. MARK'S WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**Check out our online calendar: [fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar](http://fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar)  
TODAY, 12/24 (Christmas Eve Sunday and Candlelight Services)**

- 9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreamed  
NO G.L.O.W. Nursery open for infants—age 3  
OPEN St. Mark's Christmas Post Office in Narthex  
11:30 am New Covenant Church Worship in sanctuary  
11:00 pm Christmas Eve Evening Worship in sanctuary and livestreamed

### **MONDAY, 12/25**

- 10:00 am Ladies Craft Group  
7:00 pm New Covenant 7-Day Prayer & Fasting "Crossover 2023"

### **TUESDAY, 12/26**

- 7:00 pm New Covenant 7-Day Prayer & Fasting "Crossover 2023"

### **WEDNESDAY, 12/27**

- 7:30 am Men's Prayer  
7:00 pm New Covenant 7-Day Prayer & Fasting "Crossover 2023"

### **THURSDAY, 12/28**

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous  
7:00 pm New Covenant 7-Day Prayer & Fasting "Crossover 2023"

### **FRIDAY, 12/29**

- 7:00 pm New Covenant 7-Day Prayer & Fasting "Crossover 2023"

### **SATURDAY, 12/30**

- 7:00 pm New Covenant 7-Day Prayer & Fasting "Crossover 2023"

### **SUNDAY, 12/31**

- 9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreamed  
NO G.L.O.W. Nursery open for infants—age 3  
11:30 am New Covenant Church Worship in sanctuary  
9:00 pm New Covenant "Watch Night"

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DECEMBER MISSION PROJECT:**

We are collecting coats for the *Share the Warmth Coat Drive*. bins are in Narthex, for more details, contact Tari Randall

### **DECEMBER 24, HOLIDAY CRAFT ITEMS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE**

The crafts are located in the Narthex hallway. The ladies have sold many beautiful handmade crafts already. Get your items while they last. For questions, Shirley Aycliff.

### **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 with be our traditional candlelight service.

## **PLEASE NOTE!**

### **DECEMBER 25 THRU JANUARY 1, 2024, OFFICES CLOSED**

The church offices will be closed during the week of December 25 through January 1, 2024. We will return to the offices on Tuesday January 2, 2024.

Contact Pastor Mark at (419) 297-2062.

**JANUARY 3, WED, 2-3PM, GROUP BIBLE STUDY RESUMES IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Join us as we continue the book of John for open discussion and dialog. We are a growing group and would love to have you join in at any time. Contact: Sue McDaniel.

**JANUARY 8, MONDAY, 6:30-8PM, IN PERSON LADIES BIBLE STUDY**

Join us in Fellowship Hall for an in-person group study in the book of Numbers. All ladies are welcome at any time, just bring your bible and your dinner/snack. It's very casual and we have a lot of fun discussing and learning more about the bible through questions that are provided. Contact Kym Nguyen. Other dates to note: Jan 15 and Jan 22 are Zoom in Deuteronomy.

**JANUARY 12, FRIDAY, 7-9PM, LADIES FELLOWSHIP GAME NIGHT**

Join us on for a night of fun and fellowship this evening. We will provide a variety of games, but feel free to bring your favorite with you! Bring a snack to share, drinks will be provided. Sign up at the Welcome Center and please let us know if you would like a ride to and from church and we will arrange it. Note that we will enter from the back kitchen door and into the Fellowship Hall to not disturb prayers sessions in sanctuary. Contact: Sue Luken.

**JANUARY 16, TUESDAY, SHARED HARVEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are looking for volunteers to pack boxes. Contact: Tari Randall

**FEBRUARY 3, SATURDAY, 9-11AM, MATTHEW 25 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Another opportunity to volunteer your time at Matthew 25 Ministries. We always have a great time with our St. Mark's Family to help support an amazing ministry. Contact: Lynne Schumacker.

**FEBRUARY 13, TUESDAY, 5:00-6:30PM, SHROVE PANCAKE DINNER**

Join the fun and fellowship as we begin our Lenten journey. Mouthwatering pancakes made fresh in our kitchen, a delicious toppings bar, sausage, coffee and juice. Gluten free pancakes available as well as Pre-order take outs. All donations benefit our 2024 VBS. Contact Peggy Smith for more information.

**A Note from the SPRC: "Christmas Gift for the Gregory's**

If you would like to contribute to a Christmas gift for Pastor Mark and Diana this year, there will be a collection basket in the Narthex during the service on December 24. (*Cash or check preferred*)

We ask that any checks be made payable directly to Pastor Mark.

Please do not make checks out to St. Mark's UMC. If you choose to drop off your gift at a time other than the dates above, please place in the SPRC mailbox or give to Lyn in the office for safekeeping.

You are also welcome to give your gift directly to the Gregory's if you prefer.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!  
Staff Parish Relations Committee.



*Poinsettias 2023*



(A)

In honor of our family from Bud & Shirley Aydlett (1-Red)

(B)

In memory of our parents from David & Pam Brockfield (1-White & 1Pink)

In memory of my parents, Dick & Helen Moser, from Debbie Bryant (1-Red)

In memory of Judy & Herbert Gross, Frederick Bunte, and all of our grandparents from The Bunte Family (2-Red)

In memory of my husband, Rick Broshear, from Terrill Broshear (1-Red)

In honor of my 3 children and their families: Rick, Crystal, Lincoln, & Logan Broshear from Terrill Broshear (1-Pink)

In honor of Tara, Patrick, Alex, Megan, and Abby McDonell from Terrill Broshear (1-Pink)

In honor of Tracy, Kevin, Mason, and Sydney Henderson from Terrill Broshear (2-Pink)

In memory of Harry & Patty Sherman from Lee & Arvilla Brinkmeyer (1-Red)

In memory of our parents Rev. & Mrs. Harold Sherman and Carl & Ann Brinkmeyer from Lee & Arvilla Brinkmeyer (1-Red)

In honor of our granddaughters: Annie & Maddie Brinkmeyer from Lee & Arvilla Brinkmeyer (1-Pink)

In honor of our parents and children from Dave & Cindy Booker (1-Red & 1-Pink)

In memory of Joyce Zugelter from Dave & Cindy Booker (1-White)

(D)

In memory of our parents from Bill & Julie Dichtl (1-Red)

In honor of our children from Dick and Edith Davis (1-Red)

(E)

In memory of our loved ones from Beth & Doug Ewald (1-Pink)

(F)

In memory of Lou Fassnacht from Pat Fassnacht & Holly Craig (1-Red)

In memory of Naomi & Bob Rowland from Pat Fassnacht & Holly Craig (1-Pink)

In honor of Jean Cottrill from Pat Fassnacht & Holly Craig (1-Pink)

In memory of our parents: Jim & Eleanor Fitzpatrick and Don & Ruth Park from Mike & Kathy Fitzpatrick (1-Red)

In honor of Pastor Mark & Diana Gregory from Mike & Kathy Fitzpatrick (1-Red)

(G)

In memory of Charlotte Rotroff & Shay Irwin from Pam Guynes (1-Red)

In honor of Flo Moore from Pam Guynes (1-Pink)

In memory of Joyce and Bob Roberts from Shirley Grant (1-Red)

*Poinsettias Continued...*

(H)

In loving memory of my husband, Gordon Hill, from Lois Hill (1-Red)

In memory of family & friends from Jim & Shirley Howell (1-Red)

In honor of family & friends from Jim & Shirley Howell (1-Red)

In memory of my family from Marlis Hatton (1-Red)

In memory of our parents from Mark & Jenni Hensler (1-Pink)

(J)

In memory of my husband Sam Jones & parents from Iris Jones (1-Red)

In honor of my family from Iris Jones (1-Red)

(K)

In memory of Jill Klingel Szul & Connor Szul from

Pastor Bob & Judy Klingel (1-Pink)

(L)

In honor of my grandchildren from Alethea LaMar (1-Red)

In memory of our parents, Albert & Bettiejean Luken, and

In memory of Jim & Shirley Foster from Mark & Sue Luken (2-Red)

(M)

In memory of my husband, John, from Ann McWilliam (1-Red)

In honor of Sue Mullen from Denny Mullen (1-Pink)

In memory of our son, Pat, from Denny & Sue Mullen (1-Red)

(N)

In honor of our parents, our children, and our grandchildren

from Steve & Kimberly Nguyen (1-Red)

(R)

In memory of Carol Grammel from Tari Randall (1-White)

In memory of Robert Grammel from Tari Randall (1-Red)

In honor of my mother, Marcia Roth, from Jim Roth (1-Red)

In honor of Kristy, Brodie, Kaden, and Kallie Theiss

from Susan Rumley (1-Red)

In memory of David Robinson from Kyle Robinson (1-Red)

(S)

In honor of Judy & Bob Klingel from Pat Sena (1-Red)

In memory of French Smoot from Brenda Smoot (1-Red)

In memory of Lou Fassnacht from Rich & Suzan Stracke (1-Pink)

In memory of our parents from Don & Marilyn Stewart (1-Red)

In honor of Amy, Cory, and grandkids from Don & Marilyn Stewart (1-Red)

*Poinsettias Continued...*

(S)

In memory of our parents: Bob Schumacker and Craig & Florence Kennedy from Bill & Lynne Schumacker (1-Red)

In honor of ALL of our great Children's Ministry Leaders from John & Peggy Smith (1-Pink)

In memory of our parents from John & Peggy Smith (1-Red)

(T)

In memory of Lee Rumley from Kristy Theiss (1-Red)

In memory of Karen Turner from Rich Turner (1-Red)

(V)

In honor of Lois Hill from Debbie & Steve Vitale (1-White)

In memory of Gordon Hill from Debbie & Steve Vitalie (1-White)

(Z)

In memory of our grandparents, parents and great grandparents and

In honor of our children & grandchildren

from Rich & Joyce Zugelter (1-red, 1-white)

**\*If you ordered a Poinsettia, pick up is on Dec 24th after the 11:00PM Christmas Eve Service**

**(New Covenant Church Poinsettia)**

In memory of Dr. Polley from Agnes Polley (1-Red)

In memory of my late father George Atta Banson birthday, Dec 27 (1-White) and one for my birthday, Dec 22 from Florence Jonfiah (1-Red)

Mercy Quaye (1-Pink)

In memory of Mary & Joana Appiah from Belinda Serwaah (2-Red)

Charles Appeadu (1-Red & 1-Wite)

Evelyn Odoom (2-Red)

Edith & Abel Gyan (1-Red & 1Pink)

Victoria Addae (1-Pink)

Ernestine Mensah (1-Pink)



**ONE ALTAR FLOWERS:**

*Happy Big 75th Birthday Marlis!*

**OFFERING ENVELOPES WILL BE AVAILABLE  
AFTER SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

**REMINDER:** All year-end electronic gifts must be received by the St. Mark's bank by Friday, 12/29/2023. However, if giving in person, then the last date to give to St. Mark's will be Sunday, 12/31/2023, by the end of worship.

If you plan to mail a year-end gift to the church, please mail in time to be received by St. Mark's on Saturday, 12/30/2023. ***\*\*Any gifts received after the end of worship on 12/31/2023, will be received and recorded as 2024 giving.***

**RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS—DECEMBER 17, 2023**

Worship In-Person Attendance: 187  
Sunday School Attendance:

Weekly Budget Needs	<u>\$5,446.60</u>
Weekly In-Person Giving	\$10,051.00
Weekly On-Line Giving	<u>\$1,106.52</u>
	<b><u>\$11,157.52</u></b>
Special—Designated Giving*	<u>\$667.00</u>

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



**St. Mark's United Methodist Church**

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[www.Fairfieldstmarks.com](http://www.Fairfieldstmarks.com)

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

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PW: HelloFairfield