



ST. MARK'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 31, 2023, 9:30am



Worship with us In-person and Live-stream



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

Streaming worship on Facebook and YouTube at
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

Sue Combs

*CALL TO WORSHIP

A new day has dawned, a new year begun

O Lord, call us so we may hear Your voice

The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future

O Lord, keep us in Your ways and on Your path

We enter this new year with hope and excitement

O Lord, remind us that You lead us

O Lord, guide us as look to You, and worship You.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN "O, God Our Help in Ages Past " UMH 117

*OPENING PRAYER

Sovereign God,

we look at the things You have made,

the works of Your hands,

and we stop to consider them with awe.

From the intricate immensity of the universe

to the specific singularity of a flower,

Your works astonish us.

Who are we mortals that You pay attention to us?

We wonder at your love for us and rejoice in your presence,

praying in the name of the Creator,

the Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Peggy Smith

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT

Offertory

"Joseph's Lullaby"

Chris Beiser

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving

HYMN

"There's a Song in the Air"

UMB 249

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 2:21-22

SERMON

"A Father's Instruction"

PASTOR MARK

*CLOSING HYMN

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

UMH 251

*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.

- 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.
- 11/19 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 Terrill Broshear who is recovering from ankle surgery from September 7.
- 11/15 Lois Hill's son having eye problems, surgery in December.

Iris Jones at Jamestown Rehab address:

Send your cards and uplifting notes to Iris Jones at
 Jamestown Rehab
 1371 Main Street, Room 303
 Hamilton, OH 45013

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.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeff Gering (shoulder surgery) Sharon Hamp Iris Jones Lori Palmieri (P. Coyle's daughter) Linda Prohaska Eugene Campbell—lung cancer
(Linda Prohaska's brother) Parkside Residents Brenda Smoot |
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St. Mark's Homebound:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean Cottrill Freida Hawkins Gale Logan—Otterbein Community Nancy & Wade Lewis Eleanor McCollum Charlene Miller (Berkeley Square) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zedith Pottenger Jean Stivers Virginia Shaw Paul Schutte Betty Stover (NY in home hospice) Betty Winkler |
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ST. MARK'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Check out our online calendar: fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar
TODAY, 12/31 (New Year's Eve)**

- 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"

MONDAY, 01/01 (Office Closed)

- 10:00 am Ladies Craft Group

TUESDAY, 01/02

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

WEDNESDAY, 01/03

- 7:30 am Men's Prayer
- 2:00 pm Bible Study Group
- 6:30 pm Hand bell practice
- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, 01/04

- 10:00 am Small group bible study
- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

FRIDAY, 01/05

- 7:00 pm New Covenant Prayer sessions

SATURDAY, 01/06

SUNDAY, 01/07 (Communion Sunday)

- 9:30 am Holy Communion & 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

JANUARY 23, TUESDAY, 12PM, LUNCH BUNCH AT SHOOTERS

We are meeting at shooters Sports Grill, Location: 4481 Winners Circle Drive, Liberty Township, off Princeton Glendale Road. Restaurant has a large variety of appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, pizza and pasta, Reservations need to be made by Sunday, January 21. Contact: Brenda Smoot at (513) 316-1807.

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.

USED BOOK SALE SPONSORED BY RUTH'S CIRCLE

Ruth's Circle is sponsoring a monthly used book sale to help support St. Mark's mission projects. The books are located in the Choir Room and the cost is your donation. Questions? Contact Alethea LaMar at (319) 750-1323. Thank you for your help with this important mission.

**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.***

ONE ALTAR FLOWERS:

*In memory of Greg Pullem,
from the Men's Prayer Group*

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

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

FEBRUARY 2024 Newsletter deadline is MONDAY, JAN 15!

SAVE THE DATE:

Shrove Pancake Dinner February 13, 5:00-6:30PM



St. Mark's United Methodist Church

4601 Fairfield Ave.

Fairfield, OH 45014

513.844.1818

www.Fairfieldstmarks.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

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WIFI: StMarks Guest

PW: HelloFairfield