



ST. MARK'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 7, 2024, 9:30am



Communion Sunday

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**

O come, let us worship the Lord
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

O come, let us worship the Lord
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

O come, let us worship the Lord
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan,
making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through
the gospel!**

O come, let us worship the Lord,
for God has done wondrous things! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN "Christ is the World's Light" UMH 188

***OPENING PRAYER**

It's always been about the light with you, hasn't it, Jesus?

Magi, braving distance and desert to find you, and bewildered shepherds, compelled by an angel's invitation, allowed light to be their guide,

And it is still the light that calls us to you; the light of beauty that whispers its truth in surprising ways and places; the light of compassion that kneels, and washes road-soiled, life-battered feet; the light of joy that glows even in the darkness of grief and suffering; the light that seeks to shine within us, and through us into the dark corners of our world.

It's always been about the light with you, Jesus; and it's always about the light for us. Please lead us, now and always, out of darkness and into your marvelous light. 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 MEOMENT

Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving

CHOIR ANTHEM

"The Artist "

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

"MythBusters: The Wise Men Episode..." Pastor Mark

COMMUNION

***CLOSING HYMN**

"We Three Kings"

UMH 251
(Vs 1,2)

***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."

- 12/31 Helen Bowman had a fall and went to hospital. She is recovering at her son's home for a little while.
- 12/31 Pat Fassnacht tested positive for covid.
- 12/31 Cliff Klug has been diagnosed with Parkinson's.
- 12/31 Alethea LaMar is healing from ear infections in both ears and having difficulty hearing.
- 12/25 For the Goodman/Townsend family in the unexpected death of Gales' uncle, Bill Townsend on Christmas day.
- 12/24 Cheryl Klug's sister, Donna Buxsel healing from Shingles.
- 12/24 Prayers for Kai as he struggles with mental health and life choices.
- 12/24 Diana Gregory's friend, Scott Dorsey for healing of his esophagus (cannot eat nor drink for 3 months).
- 12/24 JOY! Thankful to have Pastor Mark and 2 former pastors; Bob Klingel and Jim Cattran, during Sunday worship service.
- 12/24 Ruth Stanifer's Aunt Flo, who tested positive for covid.
- 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.
stage 4 Lung Cancer.

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.

For Pastor Mark and Diana Gregory	Jeff Gering (shoulder surgery)
All service Men & Women	Sharon Hamp
Our Country	Iris Jones
First Responders	Cliff Klug
United Methodist Church	Lori Palmieri (P. Coyle's daughter)
Prayer & Bible Study Groups	Linda Prohaska
For the sick and/or homeless	Eugene Campbell—lung cancer (Linda Prohaska's brother)
Terrill Broshear	Parkside Residents
Patty Coyle	Brenda Smoot
Sam Davis (congestive heart)	

St. Mark's Homebound:

Jean Cottrill	Zedith Pottenger
Freida Hawkins	Jean Stivers
Gale Logan—Otterbein Community	Virginia Shaw
Nancy & Wade Lewis	Paul Schutte
Eleanor McCollum	Betty Stover (NY in home hospice)
Charlene Miller (Berkeley Square)	Betty Winkler

ST. MARK'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Check out our online calendar: fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar
TODAY, 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
- 5:00 pm Take down Christmas decorations

MONDAY, 01/08

- 10:00 am Ladies Craft Group
- 6:30 pm Evening Bible Study (In-person)

TUESDAY, 01/09

- 7:00 pm Administrative Board
- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts Troup 960 (Fellowship Hall)

WEDNESDAY, 01/10

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

THURSDAY, 01/11

- 5:30 pm Nurture & Care meeting
- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

FRIDAY, 01/12

- 7:00 pm Ladies Fellowship Game Night
- 7:00 pm New Covenant Prayer sessions

SATURDAY, 01/13

SUNDAY, 01/14

- 9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreamed
G.L.O.W. Preschool—5th grade, Nursery open for infants—age 3
- 11:30 am New Covenant Church Worship in sanctuary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 10, WEDNESDAY, 2-3PM, GROUP BIBLE STUDY, 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 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

Join us for a noteworthy opportunity to make a positive impact by packing boxes at Shared Harvest. Sign up at the Narthex bulletin board. Contact: Tari Randall or Debbie Bryant.

JANUARY 19, FRIDAY, 1-2PM, RUTH CIRCLE

At Ruth Circle, we are dedicated to fostering a sense of community and sisterhood, creating a space where women can come together to connect, support and grow. Join us in Fellowship Hall each month where friendships are nurtured, faith is strengthened, and women are encouraged. Contact: Pam Guynes (513)779-9162 or email Pamguynes2@gmail.com.

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.

FEBRUARY 23, FRIDAY, 10AM—5PM, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR LASAGNA LOVE

Save the Date for St. Mark's volunteers to make and deliver lasagnas for families and folks in need. More details are coming soon. Contact Cindy Miller.

RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS—DECEMBER 24, 2023

Worship In-Person Attendance: 145
Sunday School Attendance: 6

Weekly Budget Needs \$5,446.60
Weekly In-Person Giving \$2,601.00
Weekly On-Line Giving \$1,332.76
\$3,933.76

Special—Designated Giving* \$200.00
**Designated Giving can not be used for Budget Needs*

RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS—DECEMBER 31, 2023

Worship In-Person Attendance: 117
Sunday School Attendance: 4

Weekly Budget Needs \$5,446.60
Weekly In-Person Giving \$2,803.00
Weekly On-Line Giving \$1,421.38
\$4,224.38

Special—Designated Giving* \$655.00
**Designated Giving can not be used for Budget Needs*

THREE ALTAR FLOWERS:

- 1) *In memory of Greg Pullem, from the Men's Prayer Group*
- 2) *Happy Birthday (80-1) David Brockfield, from Pam*
- 3) *In Loving Memory of Ann Shellman*

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