



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.

JUNE 2024

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JUNE 1, SATURDAY, 9-11AM
MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES VOLUNTEERING
CONTACT LYNNE SCHUMACKER (See more details on page 4)

JUNE 2, SUNDAY, 9:30-1:30PM
CANTATA, "THE SHELTER" DURING WORSHIP (9:30AM)
FOLLOWED BY CHRIS BEISER CELEBRATION (11AM)
(See more details on page 10)

JUNE 8, SATURDAY, 9AM
FAMILY PROMISE DOT DASH 5K
CONTACT TARI RANDALL (For more details, page 4)

JUNE 9-13, SUNDAY-THURSDAY, 6:30-8:15PM
VBS—CAMP FIRELIGHT
CONTACT PEGGY SMITH (For more details, page 9)

JUNE 16, SUNDAY, 9:30-10:30AM
FATHER'S DAY—TIE, TEE & HAT DAY CELEBRATION
(For more details, page 5)

JUNE 23, SUNDAY, 1:40PM (GAME-TIME)
REDS GAME CHURCH EVENT
CONTACT PASTOR MARK & DIANA (For more details, see Bulletins)

JUNE 25, TUESDAY 12PM
MONTHLY LUNCH BUNCH at (BACK PORCH, WEST CHESTER)
CONTACT BRENDA SMOOT (See more details on page 8)

JUNE 28, FRIDAY 5PM
SERVE CITY MEALS
CONTACT LYN BUCALO (See more details on page 4)

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARK

Summer Time Delights: Rest, Recreation, and God's Blessings

I love all seasons in their time. I love a good cold and snowy winter. I love the cool frosty fall mornings. I enjoy a bright and sunny spring day. However, like most people if you are asked what your favorite season is, I gotta say that summer is. The long days, the warmth, the activity and life that surrounds us. It is the best season.



Summer is a time to live life and to take a break. To hit pause and to reset. I encourage you to do this, and as your pastor I give you my blessing on your travels, vacations, and activities. God understands our need for rest. In creation, God even took a break and reminds us in the commandments to take a Sabbath. Summer is the season to rest and recharge to experience recreation and fun. It is God's design.



Know that you and your family are in our prayers in the travels you take. We are connected in so many ways, and even when apart for a few weeks, we share a vital connection in the Spirit that binds us as the Body of Christ.

In this season, I would like to both affirm your faithfulness and encourage you in it. Summertime is often difficult, as church resources become limited. It also happens at a time of our most expensive utility season (AC is expensive). Your faithfulness is a blessing to the ministry of St Mark's, and your attention to that faithfulness in the summer months allows us to plan and do God's work in vital ways.



Remember in those days we are apart, you can join us online where you can have the ability to worship, to serve, and to give. I encourage you to stay connected in this busy season and share together in God's blessings. Enjoy the summer and the good things God has to give and let us be faithful we're together and when we're apart. God Bless.



JUNE GEMS

TRUSTEES UPDATE

Summer Solstice Spruce-Up: Trustees in Action from Mulch to Paint!

Spring has sprung and June brings on summer with the solstice taking place this year on June 20! Your Trustees, along with many other church members, have been working hard to beautify the exterior of the church, parsonage, and surrounding areas. First, you may have noticed the three additional handicapped parking spaces along the grass line, closest to the church. Dave Brockfield had informed us that he felt more handicapped spaces were needed, based on what he had observed as the greeter on Sunday mornings. Dave completed this project by painting these additional parking spaces. We appreciate him taking this on and doing such a wonderful job. Thank you and kudos to you Dave!



Secondly, on May 4 (Sat.), an All-Church Workday was held. A lot of trimming and weeding had already been done in April by Jeff Gering, as well as Gil and Penny Dole. Thank you to Pastor Mark for helping us, by picking up bags of mulch with his truck the day before and helping us on May 4, as well. May is always a heavy outdoor maintenance month, and this May was no different. There were 75 bags of mulch spread at the church and parsonage. Additional trimming and weeding were done. Lawn weed/feed was applied to the front of the church, and the handrails leading into the kitchen were painted.



There were 12 church members in attendance. We GREATLY APPRECIATE everyone who showed up to help us, donated mulch, as well as everyone who donates their time, efforts, and resources in keeping St. Mark's beautiful all year long!

The next Helping Hands, All Church Workday, will be held on July 13, with Matt Snyder as the Trustee Contact.

As always, if you notice something that needs attention, let us know, and we will add it to the list. As your Trustees, we appreciate all that you do in helping us keep St. Mark's beautiful!

His Servants,

Bill Dichtl and Tonya Leguina



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES ON JUNE 1

Matthew 25 Ministries is offering a volunteer opportunity on June 1, Saturday, from 9-11am. This is a wonderful chance to make a difference in our community by lending a helping hand to those in need.

Join us, as we come together to support this important cause. Your time and effort will directly impact the lives of those less fortunate and bring hope to those who need it most.

No special skills or experience are required – just a willingness to serve and a desire to make a positive impact. Mark your calendars for June 1 and join us in spreading compassion and kindness through volunteerism. Contact Lynne Schumacker for more information regarding this volunteer opportunity.



SIZZLIN' SUMMER GRILLIN' & PICNIC THEMED DINNER AT SERVE CITY

On June 28, St. Mark's volunteers have a wonderful opportunity to serve at Serve City with a delightful "Grillin' & Picnic Themed Dinner." We invite everyone to bring a meal based on this theme to share with those in need. Let's come together to provide warmth, nourishment, and gratitude to our community. Your participation will help make this evening special and memorable for all. Join us in spreading love and joy through a delicious picnic feast! Please bring your meals by 5pm to provide time to pack and drive. A sign-up sheet is on the Narthex bulletin board. Contact Lyn Bucalo.



FAMILY PROMISE DOT DASH 5K

Get ready to lace up your walking/running shoes for a great cause! On June 8, Family Promise is hosting the Dot Dash 5K at Marcum Park in Hamilton, and we invite you to participate. Pricing: Regular Dasher (now thru June 7 is \$35), Day of Dasher is \$40 on event day, Sleep in Dasher is \$25; and ages 10 & under is \$10.

Register at this link: [https://](https://www.familypromisebutlercountyoh.org/copy-of-dot-dash-sponsor-form)

www.familypromisebutlercountyoh.org/copy-of-dot-dash-sponsor-form

This event is a fantastic opportunity to support families in need while enjoying a fun and active day outdoors. Don't miss out on this chance to make a difference and have a blast doing it. See you at the starting line!



FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS

HAT DAY EXTRAVAGANZA: A FABULOUS TRIBUTE TO MOTHERHOOD

We had a wonderful time celebrating Hat Day during Sunday worship on May 12! Many attendees showed off their favorite hats, from elegant to fun and unique, making this Mother's Day truly memorable. We honored all the mothers, grandmothers, and motherly figures in our lives with this fun and fashionable tradition.



Additionally, every mom and woman received a single carnation as a token of appreciation. Thank you to everyone who participated and brought their fabulous hats to church!



TOP IT OFF: TIE ONE ON, TEE UP, & HAT'S OFF TO DAD!

On June 16, Sunday service, we will celebrate Father's Day with a special 'Tie, Tee, & Hat' day! To honor all the amazing dads, granddads, and father figures in our lives, we're inviting everyone to wear their favorite



Tie, T-shirt, and/or a Hat to the service. It's a fun and meaningful way to show our appreciation and make the day extra memorable. Whether you choose a snazzy tie, a comfy tee, or a stylish hat, let's come together to celebrate the men who have made a difference in our lives. We look forward to seeing you there!

A JOYOUS SEND-OFF: RUTH CIRCLE LUNCHEON CELEBRATES TOMIE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY!

On May 10, the Ruth Circle held a special luncheon in Fellowship Hall, marking our last meeting before the summer break. This delightful gathering featured a feast of delicious entrees and beverages with an array of covered dishes brought by attendees.



We also celebrated Tomie's 90th birthday, adding an extra layer of joy to the occasion. The potluck style showcased the our St. Mark's Ladies culinary talents, making it a memorable event.



As we bid farewell to spring, we do so with hearts full of gratitude for the fellowship, engaging presentations, and meaningful devotions we shared. While our meetings are paused for the summer, we look forward to resuming in September, revitalized and ready for another season of growth and togetherness. May the warmth of these memories keep us connected until we gather again. Wishing you all a joyful and restful summer!"



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Twinkling Notes: "Fireflies and the Joy of Our Music"

Across the street from the church is a large field; if you continue toward Pleasant Avenue up Symmes Road, right after the field on the right is a house. That house has a lot of memories for me because it was the house that my grandmother and grandfather lived in. Many a Sunday evening, after an amazing meal prepared by grandma, I can remember taking a mason jar and running around in that large field trying to catch fireflies. I'd catch as many as I possibly could and then set them all free like a small set of fireworks in the night. I'd take a short rest and then chase and catch them all over again.



As I sat trying to construct what I was going to say in this month's newsletter, I was getting discouraged and thought, "well, maybe this month I just won't submit anything." Then I decided to look back at Lyn's suggestions for this month's article topics. I noticed one suggestion was fireflies. Immediately, I was taken back to those wonderful summer evenings in that field!



I don't like bugs, but I love fireflies. They are so magical at night. I read where fireflies are dying out due to the increased amount of developmental and environmental changes going on around us. That field was never affected by any of that. What a delight it was to always see them!

Blinking gold in the dark, little dots that would fade in and out, tiny stars that would flash and then disappear again. If it was just one fire, we would barely even notice it, but in a group, were impossible to ignore.



I think all of us that make up the congregation of St. Mark's United Methodist Church are a lot like those fireflies. On our own, as individuals, we're not much, but when you bring us all together, all of our tiny flashes under God's hand are an exciting display to behold! What a set of fireworks we are when released. When you stand and watch fireflies present their joyful evening show, it reminds us over and over again of the flashes of great beauty that God gives us every day. Each one of us is a giver of small light, but we are actually a part of something bigger that's quite striking and magical.



I hope everyone, when given the chance to watch the fireflies, takes that opportunity and smiles.

Maybe even grab a mason jar and run in the summer night to catch a few. Enjoy those flashes of God's love, and always remember to be that little shining light in the dark.



FINANCIAL UPDATES and ST. MARK'S CARES MINISTRY

Breezy Budgeting: St. Mark's Financial Recap

Dear St. Mark's Family,
Here we are at the very beginning of the summer months. I hope everyone will take advantage of the sunshine and the cool evening breezes. The month of April ended quietly. With St. Mark's having \$48,213.46 in the checking account and \$64,461 in the savings account with \$39,420 was set aside in the savings account for improvements on the St. Mark's campus. That leaves \$25,041 to be used for general expense purposes, if needed.



The Park National Bank Loan stands at \$26,532. All payments have been made on a timely basis, and the loan is current. The giving for the month of April fell \$4,363 short of what we had budgeted. Luckily, our expenses that were paid out also were less than what we had budgeted by \$1,318. By spending less this month, that helped us out overall. We are still spending less than what we are receiving through giving. Thank you to all who are being very vigilant with their spending. Please note that all bills and apportionments continue to be paid on a timely basis. Bill has been able to stay with the plan of paying \$2,946.42 each month towards our apportionments to Conference. If we can stay on track, we will have the total of \$35,357 paid by year's end.



As I mentioned last month in the newsletter, we are coming up to the summer months. Giving usually decreases during the summer. We are hoping that everyone will be mindful that the expenses of the church continue to need to be paid even though it is vacation season. The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for the gifts that have been given to St. Mark's, thus far, and we are thankful for the gifts that will be coming.

As always, if you have questions regarding the financial status of St. Mark's, feel free to contact Bill or myself. We will be happy to address any of your concerns.

Gale Goodman, Finance Committee Chair
Bill Schumacker, Treasurer

ST. MARK'S CARES MINISTRY

2023 Celebration of Service

What an incredible year of spreading love and care to others! Our congregation embraced numerous opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus, sharing our compassion and generosity with those in need. Here's a summary of our collective efforts and the difference we've made:

Here is a summary...

We donated 50 Easter Baskets to Fairfield Food Pantry (FFFP) for local children

We donated 45 Cleaning Supply Items for FFFP

We donated \$535.00 to FFFP

We donated 259 lbs. of food to FFFP

We donated 100 School Supply Items for Fairfield City Schools

We had 24 people volunteer at Matthew 25 Ministries

We had 5 prepared meals for Broken Bus with 4 riders

We donated \$1,485.00 to the Broken Bus

We donated \$845.00 to Living Waters

We prepared 3 meals for Serve City, with 24 people donating the delicious foods

We donated \$385.00 to Serve City

We prepared 2 themed meals for the Wesley House

We donated \$1,300.00 to Wesley House

We had 3 walkers/runners and 2 volunteers for Family Promise Dot Dash 5K

We had 2 walkers for the NAMI of Butler County 5K

We had 48 volunteers who packed more than 400 boxes at Shared Harvest

We collected 25 Coats and Outerwear for those in need at Parkside Nursing Home

We donated 70 beautifully wrapped Christmas presents shared with the residents of Parkside Nursing Home and 1 Large Gift Basket to the Parkside Staff

We donated \$1,295.55 to the victims of Hawaii

UMCOR Sunday donations totaled \$1,307.00

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY GROUPS

LADIES MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY **JUNE at 6:30PM**

Join us for Women's Monday Night Bible Study as we investigate the books of Chronicles & Psalm. Our gatherings are a blend of in-person sessions on the first Monday of each month, with the remainder of the weeks conducted over Zoom, ensuring accessibility for all. You're welcome to join us at any point in our journey through these rich books of the Bible. Weekly questions are provided to guide our thoughts and conversations. Reach out to Kym Nguyen for details.



MEN'S WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP **MEET IN PRAYER ROOM AT 7:30AM**



All men are welcome. Go to the church Prayer room each week in person or phone in. Followed by Breakfast. Contact Jeff Gering for details.

WEDNESDAYS **WALK/EXERCISE CLASS**

Join us every week at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall for our Walk/Exercise Class. This class is designed for all levels and includes beginners. You can even sit in a chair and work out, too! We walk, kick, and sidestep our way towards healthier lifestyles together. There's no judgment here; you can go at your own pace. Come and join us and take a step towards better health! For more information, contact Ruth Ritenbaugh.



MONTHLY LUNCH BUNCH (BACK PORCH) **JUNE 25, TUESDAY, 12PM**

The June Lunch Bunch is Tuesday, 12PM, June 25 at the Back Porch. Address: 9626 Princeton Glendale Rd., West Chester 45011. Usually, we do not meet in the summer months, but this is extra and there are just 20 reservations available because of space. Reservations need to be made by Tuesday, June 18, one week before. Contact Brenda Smoot, (513)-316-1807.

Here are some images from our Lunch Bunch gatherings over the past year, showcasing the variety of restaurants we've enjoyed together. "Ciao, Everyone"



CHILDREN and FAMILY MINISTRY

FOLLOW-UP LADIES FELLOWSHIP NIGHT An Evening to Remember with Annie Oakley

On April 26, the Ladies Fellowship Night at St. Mark's was a remarkable success. The evening featured a captivating "First Person" presentation of Ohioan Annie Oakley by Joyce Browning from Heritage Village. Joyce's portrayal transported us back in time, offering an engaging and informative glimpse into the life of one of America's most iconic sharpshooters.



The event was also a wonderful time for building friendships and enjoying delightful desserts. Laughter and conversation flowed as everyone enjoyed the sweets and each other's company. A heartfelt thank you

to everyone who attended and supported the event. Your presence made it memorable, and your contributions helped cover the presenter's fee. Special thanks to the organizers and those who brought friends along. Your enthusiasm and participation make our fellowship events special.

Stay tuned for future events, and let's continue to grow our community and create more unforgettable memories together! Thank you for making Ladies Fellowship Night an event to remember!



VBS JUNE 9-13: CAMP FIRELIGHT

Join us for an exciting adventure with God at this year's Vacation Bible School, 'Camp Firelight', inspired by Psalm 56:3!

From June 9th to 13th, 6:30-8:15 PM, children and youth are invited to twinkle and flutter into a world of exciting stories, engaging activities, and meaningful lessons that will create lasting memories and strengthen faith bonds.



At 'Camp Firelight', VBS is more than just a gathering; it's an opportunity for our young ones to connect, grow, and experience the joy of community. Through fun-filled activities and engaging lessons, children will embark on a journey of faith and discovery. Use this link to sign up! <https://stmarksumc.mycokesburyvbs.com>



Don't miss out on this enriching experience! For inquiries and registration, please contact Peggy Smith.



BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES and THANK YOU's

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is incorrect,
please contact the church office (513-844-1818)



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

06/01	June Niederman	91
06/03	Kym Nguyen	
06/07	Chris Cooper	
06/07	Nancy Lewis	
06/09	Brian George	
06/10	Sue Beckett	
06/20	Becky Hamblin	
06/21	Rich Stracke	
06/26	Debbie Vitale	
06/27	Kristy Theiss	
06/28	Don Stewart	
06/29	Sue McDaniel	
06/30	Terrill Broshear	
06/30	Mike Fitzpatrick	

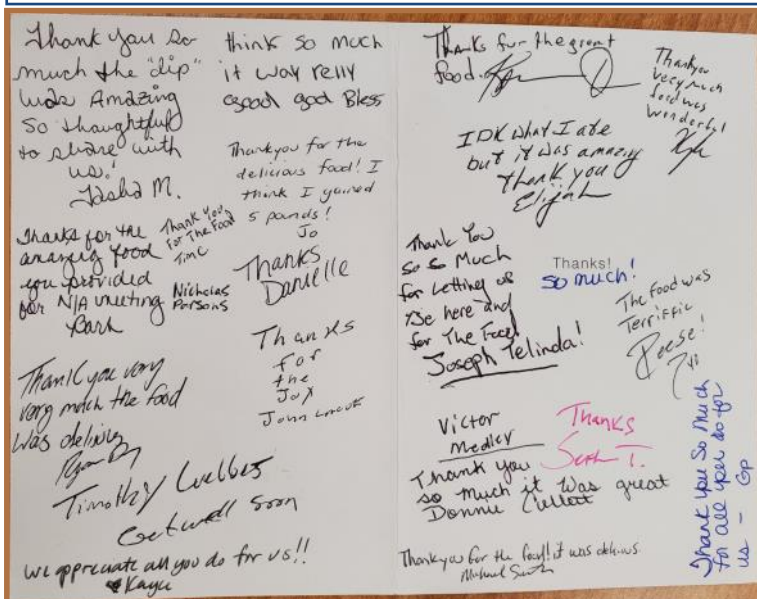


JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

06/01	Rick & Janis Kiefer	39
06/19	Dan & Judy Scofield	53
06/20	Brodie & Kristy Theiss	15
06/24	Bobby & Jennifer Rinker	29
06/25	Bob & Judy Klingel	64
06/25	Cliff & Cheryl Klug	41
06/25	Tim & Maria Mullen	36
06/25	Rich & Suzan Stracke	47
06/28	Eric & Michele Leyrer	16

Thank you from Narcotics Anonymous!

We received a heartfelt thank you card from the Narcotics Anonymous group expressing their gratitude for the wonderful food provided from our Salad Luncheon Committee. They shared that "the food was terrific" and appreciated the food given. One member mentioned, "I don't know what I ate but it was amazing, thank you," while another humorously noted, "I think I gained 5 pounds!" They also expressed thanks for the "amazing and thoughtful" dip and the food was yummy! The group appreciates all we do for them and sends their blessings to everyone involved. Thank you all for your generosity and support!



THANK YOU TO CHRIS BEISER, FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AS OUR ST. MARK'S MUSIC DIRECTOR!



**JUNE 2, 11:00-1:30
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION
FOR OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR,
CHRIS BEISER, AS WE
CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF
SERVICE.**

**LIGHT LUNCH WITH CAKE
PROVIDED. SIGN UP AT THE
WELCOME COUNTER.**

ST. MARK'S CHURCH EVENT FOLLOW-UP:

ANNUAL SALAD LUNCHEON AND CRAFTS (and Used Book Sale)

St. Mark's Annual Salad Luncheon & Crafts: A Flavorful Success!

"A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for the Salad Luncheon and Crafts at St. Mark's UMC!

A special thanks to all who volunteered, made salads and came to eat at the event. We could not have done it without everyone!
—The Salad Luncheon Team

We are thrilled to share that our recent Salad Luncheon and Crafts Event was a resounding success, thanks to your incredible support and participation. It was truly heartwarming to see so many smiling faces, and your presence made the day truly special.

Once again, thank you for your support and participation. Your generosity has made a real difference, and we look forward to welcoming you back next year for another fantastic event!



We hope you enjoyed the wide variety of delicious salads and dessert offerings. Your enthusiasm and positive energy added to the vibrant atmosphere of the event, making it a memorable day for all.

Included in this article are some of the best images from the event, capturing the joyful moments and the sense of community that we all shared. We hope these images bring back fond memories of the day.



We are proud to announce that we collected a total of \$1595 in sales at the luncheon, serving 150 people. Additionally, we sold \$283 worth of crafts. And then from the Used Book Sales, we brought in \$212.



4601 Fairfield Avenue
Fairfield, OH 45014

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FEES PAID
ST MARK'S UMC
FAIRFIELD, OH
PERMIT NO. 62

SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S JUNE 2024



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

Church Office Hours :

9:30am– 3:00pm on Tuesday,
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Monday - (Office Closed)
Phone (513) 844-1818
www.fairfieldstmarks.com

Worship Service:

Sundays 9:30 am