



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.

AUGUST 2024

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AUGUST 5, MONDAY, IN-PERSON 6:30PM

LADIES BIBLE STUDY (FELLOWSHIP HALL)
CONTACT KYM NGUYEN (More details, page 8)

AUGUST 10, SATURDAY, 7:00-9:00PM

LADIES FELLOWSHIP "SWAP" NIGHT EVENT
CONTACT SUE LUKEN (More details, page 8)

AUGUST 11, SUNDAY DURING WORSHIP

BACKPACK BLESSINGS
CONTACT PEGGY SMITH (See more details on page 9)

AUGUST 14, WEDNESDAY, 7:00PM (ZOOM)

CHURCH MEETING & DISCUSSION
CONTACT PASTOR MARK

AUGUST 21, WEDNESDAY, 6:00-8:00PM

MUSIC MINISTRY PICNIC (at SHELTER)
CONTACT CHRIS BEISER (For more details, page 6)

AUGUST 24, SATURDAY, 9:00-11:00AM

MATTHEW 25 MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS
CONTACT LYNNE SCHUMACKER (See more details on page 8)

AUGUST 25, SUNDAY, (AFTER WORSHIP)

FREIDA HAWKINS MILESTONE 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
CONTACT CHURCH OFFICE (More details, page 10)

SEPTEMBER 7, SATURDAY, 9:00AM

ALL CHURCH WORK DAY
CONTACT PENNY DOLE (See more details on page 7)



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARK

From Pencils to Prayers: Embracing the New Season Together!

As August rolls in, there's a buzz in the air. It's that time of year again—students are sharpening pencils, donning new backpacks, and gearing up for another school year. The anticipation of Football games fills our hearts, and the thought of crisp autumn days just around the corner brings a sense of joy and renewal. Summer may be winding down, but a season of new beginnings is upon us!



This summer we have had discussions around the leadership structure of our church. Our July town hall meeting introduced the concept of a Lead Team, sparking ideas, fielding questions and conversations.

Leadership Team...

If you were unable to make the last meeting, don't worry! We're hosting another meeting via Zoom on August 14 at 7PM. Keep an eye on your weekly email blast for the Zoom link and join us as we continue to shape the future of St. Mark's together.



As we transition into fall, let's encompass the opportunities ahead with open hearts and minds. This season promises to be filled with blessings as we come together to worship, serve, and grow in faith. Whether you join us in person or online, we welcome you to experience the warmth and fellowship of our 9:30AM Sunday services. Let's celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst and embark on this journey of faith together.



May God bless each of us
as we step into this vibrant new season.
With joy and anticipation.

ST. MARK'S MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: IN MEMORY OF...

In Memory of Jean Cottrill

With our deepest, heartfelt condolences we announce the passing of our beloved Jean Cottrill, who left us quietly at her home on the morning of May 8, 2024, surrounded by her daughters. Jean was a loving and dedicated wife, mother, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Family was her greatest source of happiness.



After a childhood spent on her family's farm, Jean moved to Cincinnati as a young woman, where she met her beloved husband, Frank. Together, they worked hard, raised two wonderful daughters, and created a happy and nurturing family life. Jean took great pride in her home, enjoying "having people over," cooking dinners, baking cookies, and planning an evening's entertainment. She also loved to garden and kept her home immaculate.



In her professional life, Jean was a valued secretary, known for her meticulous and organized nature. In her later years, she looked forward to daily phone calls with her sister, where they would talk and laugh about "absolutely nothing." Jean was deeply appreciative of her neighbors and church community at St. Mark's UMC, who kept a watchful eye and helped her stay connected.

Jean's grandsons taught her all about sports, and they would listen to and watch games together. She shared her love for playing cards, always ready to challenge them to games of Uno, '31', and Chinese checkers. In the past year, she welcomed the birth of her great-grandson, affectionately calling him "The Little Prince," and her eyes would light up at the mention of a Rice Krispies treat and a cup of coffee, which she always wanted to share.

Jean is preceded in death by her loving husband, Frank. She is survived by family members who cherished her: Terri, Sue, James, Kyle, Emily, Matthew, Martha and children (Jack, Jill), Barbara and children (Tina, Todd).

Jean's life was a testament to the power of love and service. Her spirit will live on in the hearts of those she touched. As we remember her, let us celebrate her life by continuing her legacy of love, kindness, and service.

Rest in peace, Jean. You will be deeply missed, but your legacy of love and service will continue to inspire us all.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES ON AUGUST 24 (VOLUNTEERS)

On Saturday, August 24, from 9-11AM, St. Mark's volunteers made a meaningful difference in our community by lending a helping hand to those in need. Participants united to support this important cause, knowing their time and effort would directly impact the lives of the less fortunate and bring hope to those who needed it most.



No special skills or experience were required – just a willingness to serve and a desire to make a positive impact. For more information about volunteer opportunities, please contact Lynne Schumacker.

Matthew  **Ministries**

SHARED HARVEST JULY 9, 12:30-2:30PM

Mark On July 9, a spirited team of 13 volunteers from St. Mark's UMC came together to assist Shared Harvest in packing 288 senior boxes using the new roller assembly line. The efficiency of the assembly line streamlined the packing process, allowing our volunteers to work seamlessly and effectively. The teamwork and dedication displayed by everyone involved made the event a resounding success. It was heartwarming to see our community come together to support such a meaningful cause, ensuring that seniors in need received essential supplies. Our volunteers' hard work and enthusiasm truly embodied the spirit of service that defines St. Mark's.




Shared Harvest
FOODBANK

FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS

SERVE CITY FOLLOW UP: BLAZING HOT GRILLING PICNIC

On June 28, St. Mark's UMC hosted a heartwarming and successful outreach event at Serve City. With our theme for the day being "Picnic and Grills," eight dedicated volunteers gathered to serve food to the community, turning the event into a festive celebration of summer favorites.



The excitement began early as many members of our congregation prepared delicious meals and brought them to the church for delivery to Serve City. The anticipation built up as the scent of home-cooked goodness filled the air. Our volunteers transported these meals with care, ready to share them with those in need.

Upon arrival at Serve City, our team set up a welcoming picnic atmosphere with lots of fresh food and ready to serve. Despite the blistering 90-degree heat, Pastor Mark heroically manned the grill, flipping 75 burgers with enthusiasm and ensuring that everyone enjoyed a hearty meal. His dedication, along with the support of our wonderful volunteers, ensured that no one left hungry.



The turnout was fantastic, with over 40 people joining us to savor the delicious dishes prepared with love and care. The event was more than just a meal; it was an opportunity to connect, share stories, and spread joy. The laughter and conversations that filled the air were a testament to the power of community and the joy of serving others.



One of the highlights was seeing the smiles on the faces of those we served. The simple act of sharing a meal brought immense happiness and a sense of togetherness. It was a day filled with fellowship, generosity, and the true spirit of St. Mark's UMC.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated, from those who cooked and delivered meals to those who served on-site. Your contributions made this event a shining example of what we can achieve when we come together with a common purpose. Here's to many more successful days of outreach, spreading love and kindness in our community!



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

August Amusements: “Harmonies and Hilarity”

I hope you're all having a fantastic summer, even with the sizzling temperatures! Sue and I are excited to announce a fun-filled Music Ministry Picnic on August 21 from 6-8 pm at the church picnic shelter. Whether you're a current member, a tech team hero, or just curious about joining our music groups this season, come and enjoy some good eats and great company in a relaxed setting.

Mark your Calendars: Choir Picnic: August 21



If Mother Nature decides to give us rain, no worries—we'll move the party to Fellowship Hall. *Bring a dish to share while we provide the meat, condiments, and paper products. Don't forget your lawn chairs to kick back and unwind!*

Sue will chat about our handbell choir, and I'll cover everything you need to know about the vocal choir. We'll be there to answer any questions and share our excitement for the upcoming season. This event is open to choir members, bell players, sound/tech team members, returning members, and anyone thinking about joining.

We can't wait to see you all for an evening of music, fellowship, and fun! See you there and in church!

PS - I thought it would be fun to let you laugh a little at some summer church sign messages...

“This summer, Lettuce praise him...”



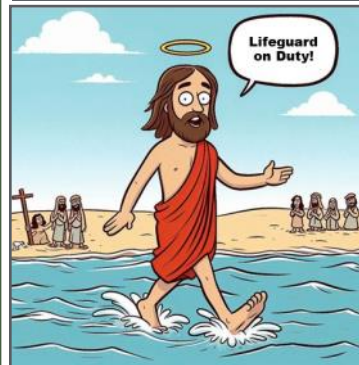
Squash the gossip...and Turnip at church.”

“Sin burn is prevented by Son screen.”

“Our church is prayer conditioned.”

“If you think it's hot now, we have no idea!”

“Mosquito's also know there is power in the blood!”



“In need of a lifeguard?

Well...

We have one that walks on water!”

Here's one to go along with Pastor Mark's sermon series this summer:

Adam and Eve were the first people to not read the Apple Terms and Conditions!



And one final funny joke to leave you with...

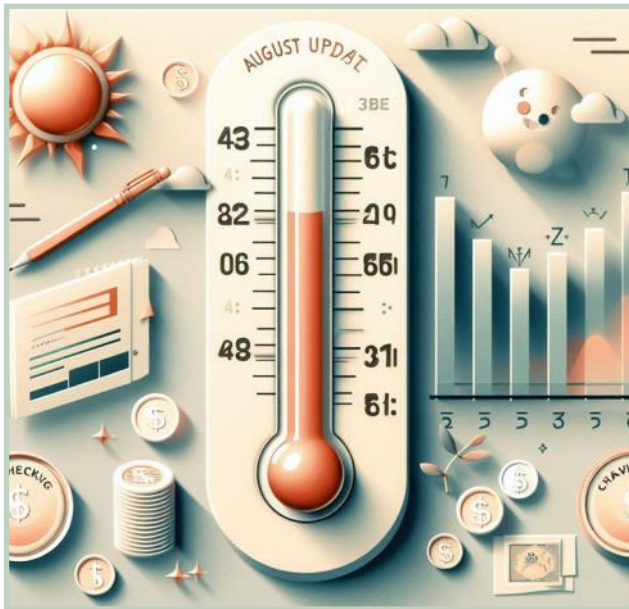
“If God is your co-pilot, you should probably switch seats.”

FINANCIAL AND TRUSTEES UPDATES

Summer Stewardship: St. Mark's Financial Outlook

Dear St Mark's Family,
August is here and that means temperatures are getting warmer and summer is winding down for the school aged members of our congregation.

With that being said, let us jump into the month end numbers for June. St Mark's ended the month of June showing \$57,951 in the checking account while the savings account ended the month with \$64,469. Always keep in mind that \$39,420 of the savings can only be used for improvements to the St. Mark's campus. Our loan at Park National is now down to \$25,056. All payments are current and paid on time.



As you may recall, giving to St Mark's fell during the month of May. However, it did rebound in June. St Mark's received \$35,527 in giving during the month of June. Please keep in mind that the expenses for VBS and the Annual Conference are still being processed in July. So, we will have a better picture of the full impact that those expenses once they have all been paid. We have continued to pay our apportionments each month. At this point, we are on track to have them taken care of during the month of December.

We appreciate your continued support of St Mark's through your gifts and prayers. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments you may have regarding the finances of St Mark's.

We will be happy to address them.
Gale Goodman, Finance Committee Chair
Bill Schumacker, Treasurer

TRUSTEES UPDATE

"Dog Days of Summer"

August has always been the "Dog Days of Summer" to me. It is HOT, and we are still enjoying summer activities, but "Back to School" is right around the corner mid-month. Seems too early to get back into the routine of a new school year, but here we are!



Your Trustees continue to work on several projects that were started at the beginning of the summer. Here is where we stand as of mid-July. In the Parsonage, an upstairs ceiling fan was installed. A big THANK YOU to Lee Brinkmeyer for the installation!

Lyn Bucalo's office is in the process of receiving a beautiful update! New carpet squares will be installed by McSwain Carpets and Floors. Jeff Gering and Gil Dole have worked hard at helping to prepare the room prior to the updates, as well as painting and moving furniture back into the office. Thank you to Lyn and Bob Ratliff for all their efforts in making this happen as well. Lyn has chosen and donated a lovely desk to round out this much needed renovation. By the time you read this update, the project should be completed. Stop by Lyn's office and check it out!



Our next All Church Helping Hands Workday is scheduled for Saturday, September 7, with Penny Dole as the Lead Trustee. We appreciate every one of you that spend your valuable time working in and around the church. It takes all of us working together to keep St. Mark's beautiful.

His Servants,
Bill Dichtl and Tonya Leguina

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY GROUPS

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.

LADIES MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY AUGUST at 6:30PM

Join us for Women's Monday Night Bible Study as we investigate the books of the Bible each week. 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.

August 5, 6:30PM
Fellowship Hall is our **IN-PERSON**



WEDNESDAYS WALK/EXERCISE CLASS

Join us every week at 10AM 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.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP "SUMMER SWAPS & SHARED DELIGHTS"

Get ready for a delightful twist, ladies! Our next event promises to be a thrilling 'Swap' evening on August 10, 7-9PM! It's time to dust off those gently used items you no longer need but someone else might cherish.

If you haven't started rummaging through your closets and drawers yet, get ready to join us for an evening of swapping fun! This event is not to be missed! For more information, contact Sue Luken.

Eager for a Change?

Dive into your collection of "gently used" items and bring anything you'd consider "re-gifting" to a friend. From small household appliances and jewelry to accessories and decorative items, there's something for everyone to swap! The concept is simple: however many items you bring, you choose the same number of items to take home.

At the end of the night, any unclaimed items can be donated to a local charity. Complimentary drinks and dessert will be provided while you mingle and exchange treasures.

Sign up at the Welcome Center to let us know you're coming, and feel free to invite a friend to join the fun! We had great interest in this event after discussing it at the Annie Oakley event, so we hope to see you all there.



Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to refresh your home and connect with fellow ladies!

CHILDREN and FAMILY MINISTRY

YOUTH FUN DAY FOLLOW-UP: "PIZZA with PASTOR"

On July 17, the youth of St. Mark's UMC, ranging from 6-12th grades, gathered for an afternoon filled with fun, games, and delicious pizza. The event, suitably named "Pizza with the Pastor," offered a fantastic opportunity for our young members to engage with each other and get to know Pastor Mark a little better.



As the afternoon progressed, laughter and friendly competition filled the room, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the chance to sit down and chat with Pastor Mark. Over slices of lip-smacking pizza, the youth had the opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas, and dreams for the future of the youth group at St. Mark's.



Pastor Mark's approachable, humorous, and friendly demeanor made it easy for everyone to open up. He listened attentively as the youth voiced their desires for exciting outings and opportunities to grow in their faith.

The discussions were inspiring, leaving everyone feeling more connected and motivated. This event was not just about games and food; it was a moment to strengthen the bonds within our church community and to ensure that the voices of our youth are heard and valued. It was heartwarming to see such interest and engagement from our young members, and we look forward to implementing their fantastic ideas.



A big thank you to everyone who attended and made this event a memorable one! Let's continue to support and uplift our youth as they grow in faith and fellowship.

ANNUAL BACKPACK BLESSINGS AUGUST 11 (During Worship)

Join us for our Annual Backpack Blessings! As the new school year begins, we invite all students to bring their backpacks to church for a special blessing.

This meaningful event helps students start the year with a sense of purpose and God's guidance. Each backpack represents the dedication to learning and the community's support. Let's come together to pray for our children's safety, growth, and success throughout the year. Teachers and school staff are also welcome to join as we extend our blessings to them. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating this special moment together. Contact Peggy Smith for details.



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)



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08/01	Dianne Aiken	
08/01	Chelsey Cavender	
08/02	Peg Wyatt	94
08/03	Lois Hill	93
08/04	Maddie Hensler	
08/10	Lora Gugala	
08/10	Janis Kiefer	
08/12	Donna Hughes	
08/12	Sullivan Saylor	*9
08/14	Dick Davis	95
08/15	Jenn Specht	
08/16	Jeff Gering	
08/19	Bill Schumacker	
08/22	Nicole Specht	
08/24	Freida Hawkins	100!
08/26	Willa Ramsey	
08/27	Debbie Bryant	
08/30	Shelby Cavender	
08/30	Shannon Cooper	
08/30	Joey Specht	



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

08/11	Devin & Gale Goodman	33
08/14	Gary & Cindy Miller	48
08/24	Bob & Becky Mendenhall	56
08/28	Mike & Kathy Fitzpatrick	53

Thank You Message From Iris Jones

Thank you all for the wonderful cards, gifts, birthday greetings, visits, and beautiful flowers from my "Secret Admirer." My birthday was truly amazing, and I am so grateful for each and every one of you. Your thoughtfulness made my day extra special. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!



Thank you Message from Ann Brabbs

Dear Friends,
Thank you for the prayers, cards and loving thoughts during my surgery and the recovery. Currently, I am going to physical therapy and will continue to for a while longer, until completely healed. I sincerely thank you all for your love. Blessings and Love,
Ann Brabbs



Come Celebrate! Freida Hawkins 100th Birthday Milestone

On August 25, Sunday, after worship, join us in Fellowship Hall to celebrate a momentous occasion—Freida Hawkins' 100th birthday! Let's come together as a congregation to honor Freida's incredible century of life with joy, love, and fellowship. Everyone is invited to share in this special celebration and make it a memorable day for Freida and our church family.

Freida continues to be an inspiration to many as she remains active in our community, generously assisting the Monday craft ladies in crocheting beautiful gifts and handmade items. These creations are sold to support our church, and her dedication and creativity continue to inspire us all.

Come and celebrate this amazing milestone with us!



ST. MARK'S CHURCH EVENT FOLLOW-UP:

LASAGNA LOVE

LASAGNA LOVE: Spreading Joy ONE Meal at a Time!

St. Mark's had a second opportunity to make lasagna's this year for the community around us. On July 19, the St. Mark's UMC community came together for a heartwarming and delicious event: Lasagna Love. With a team of about 10 enthusiastic volunteers, we set out to make and deliver meals to families around our community, and the results were nothing short of amazing. We made 15 lasagnas!



Our volunteers were truly in the Italian spirit, with lively Italian music playing in the background, setting the perfect atmosphere for the day. The kitchen was filled with laughter, singing, and even a bit of dancing as everyone worked together in an assembly line to prepare the lasagnas. It was a wonderful sight to see our community members coming together, united by a common goal of spreading love and kindness through food.



In total, we were able to feed 28 adults and 32 children, providing them with hearty, homemade lasagna meals. The joy and gratitude from the families we served were truly touching, reminding us of all the impact a simple meal can have on those in need.



This event was not only about feeding people; it was about creating connections and building a stronger, more compassionate community. The camaraderie among our volunteers was infectious, and it was clear that everyone had a fantastic time. From the initial chopping of ingredients to the final delivery of meals, every step was filled with enthusiasm and a genuine desire to help others.



A huge thank you to all the volunteers who dedicated their time and energy to make this event a success. Your hard work and generous spirit made a significant difference in the lives of the families we served. We also extend our gratitude to everyone who donated ingredients and supported this initiative in any way.

Let's continue to embrace the spirit of Lasagna Love and find more ways to spread kindness and joy throughout our community. Together, we can make a difference, one meal at a time.



4601 Fairfield Avenue
Fairfield, OH 45014

PRST MKTG
POSTAGE AND
FEES PAID
ST MARK'S UMC
FAIRFIELD, OH
PERMIT NO. 62

SPIRIT OF ST. MARK'S AUGUST 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
Access the church calendar on our website at
<https://www.fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar/>

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
(In-person & Livestream)