



# 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.

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

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## **SEPTEMBER—WEEKLY & MONTHLY GATHERINGS RESUME**

SEE DETAILS INSIDE

### **SEPTEMBER 1, SUNDAY 1:00-4:00PM**

ALETHEA LAMAR—80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
(More details, page 10)

### **SEPTEMBER 3, TUESDAY, 6:30-8:00PM**

LADIES MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY IN PERSON MEETING  
CONTACT KYM NGUYEN (More details, page 8)

### **SEPTEMBER 7, SATURDAY, 9:00AM**

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

### **SEPTEMBER 8, SUNDAY, 5:00-7:00PM**

ALL CHURCH PICNIC  
CONTACT PEGGY SMITH (More details, page 11)

### **SEPTEMBER 20, FRIDAY, 1:00PM**

RUTH CIRCLE  
CONTACT PAM GUYNES (More details, page 5)

### **SEPTEMBER 24, TUESDAY, 12:00PM**

LUNCH BUNCH at SHOOTER'S  
CONTACT SUE BECKETT (See more details on page 8)

### **SEPTEMBER 27, FRIDAY, 5:00PM**

SERVE CITY MEALS—MEXICAN FIESTA & TACO'S  
CONTACT LYN BUCALO (See more details on page 4)

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARK

### **Battles...**

Life is full of battles—challenges that test our strength, endurance, and faith. Whether it's struggling with our own health or caring for a loved one, navigating the complexities of relationships, or managing financial hardships, these battles can leave us feeling overwhelmed and unprepared. We often find ourselves questioning our ability to overcome these obstacles, feeling mismatched and untrained for the fight.



But in the midst of these struggles, one crucial element remains steadfast: faith. Faith in the will and purpose of God gives us the strength to persevere, even when the odds seem insurmountable.



The Apostle Paul urges us to face life's battles with the full armor of God, as described in Ephesians 6:10-18. This fall, we will embark on a preaching series that explores this armor—the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of readiness from the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. Just as a soldier must be well-equipped and trained to win their battles, so must we equip ourselves spiritually to face the challenges before us. Each piece of the armor of God is essential for our spiritual protection and victory. Together, we will delve into the meaning and importance of each piece, learning how to effectively put on this armor and stand firm in the face of adversity. Join us as we prepare for the battles ahead and strengthen our faith for the journey.

### **"...THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS"**



### **Notes:**

Just a follow up on our exploration of moving to a lead team. Both town hall meetings have taken place during the month of August. A straw poll was taken at both meetings and the results of that straw poll were to move forward in pursuing a lead team (the vote total was 40 yes, 1 no). This change will require a church conference vote. Look for the pending date of that conference as it has not yet been set. I will have a short Q&A on the issue prior to the conference if there are any last-minute questions you may have. Stay tuned for when that Q&A will be scheduled.

God Bless.



# FREIDA HAWKINS' BIRTHDAY BASH RECAP—TURNING 100!

## **In Case You Missed It:** **100th Birthday Bash Recap** **(A Century of Grace)**

On a beautiful Sunday, after service, the St. Mark's family gathered to celebrate a truly remarkable milestone—Freida Hawkins turning 100 years old. The church was filled with joy and admiration as we honored Freida with an all-church birthday bash that was nothing short of spectacular.



Freida was the queen of the day, adorned with a special crown and sash that proclaimed her royal status. More than 16 of her closest family members joined the St. Mark's congregation to shower her with love and well-wishes. The celebration kicked off with heartfelt speeches from Pastor Mark and Freida's son, Don, who both shared touching words about Freida's incredible journey and the impact she has had on everyone around her.



The festivities continued as Kathy Fitzpatrick serenaded Freida with a beautiful rendition of "It Had to Be You," accompanied by the talented Sue Combs on the piano. The song, chosen especially for Freida,

added a personal and sentimental touch to the event, leaving smiles on every face.



We indulged in delicious cake and ice cream, enjoying each other's company and the warmth of the occasion. The room was filled with laughter, smiles, and the sweet sounds of celebration as we all came together to honor a century of life well-lived.



Freida Hawkins truly was the queen for the weekend, surrounded by her loving family and the St. Mark's community. It was a day filled with joy, memories, and a deep sense of gratitude for the blessing that Freida is to all of us. This was a party to be remembered, a fitting tribute to a remarkable woman who has touched so many lives. Also, A huge 'Thank You' to every person who helped make this milestone birthday one of the most memorable!

*"As the celebration came to a close, one thing was clear—Freida's life, filled with grace, love, and wisdom, has been a gift to us all. Here's to 100 years of joy, and to many more memories yet to be made with our beloved queen of the day, Freida Hawkins."*



## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

### **JULY MISSIONS: FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE RECAP**

We are excited to announce the success of our July Missions project, where we rallied together to support Fairfield City Schools by collecting school supplies for students in need. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our St. Mark's family, we gathered an astounding 416 items!

From backpacks and notebooks to pencils, crayons, and more, including hairspray, these supplies will provide essential tools for students as they embark on a new school year. Your contributions not only ease the financial burden on families but also ensure that each child has the resources to focus on their learning and reach their full potential.



This drive is a testament to the caring and compassionate spirit of our congregation. Every item donated represents a step towards a brighter future for these students, and we couldn't be more proud of the difference you've made. Your kindness and commitment to serving our community truly shine, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated. Together, we've made a meaningful impact, and we look forward to continuing this important work in the future.

### **NOTE: UPCOMING MISSIONS DRIVE:** *(Gently Used Shoes, Coats, Hats, and Gloves)*

As the colder months approach, we will be launching a Missions Drive to collect gently used shoes, coats, hats, and gloves for those in need. Your donations will help provide warmth and protection to those facing challenging circumstances. Please consider going through your closets and setting aside any items that could be given a second life. Together, we can make a significant impact on our community. We will notify you as to when the collection bins will be available.

### **MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES RECAP:** **Serving with Compassion**

A dedicated group of 8 volunteers from our church rolled up their sleeves and joined forces at Matthew 25 Ministries to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate and facing challenging times. Our team spent the day repacking jeans from Cintas, which will be distributed to individuals and families to stay warm and comfortable.



Thank you to everyone who participated in this meaningful service project. Your time and energy have made a tangible impact, demonstrating the love of Christ through action. If you're interested in joining future volunteer opportunities, check the bulletin or contact Lynne Schumacker.

### **SERVE CITY SEPTEMBER 27:** **MEXICAN THEME FIESTA & TACO's**

Hola, amigos! We're bringing the fiesta to Serve City with a Mexican-themed celebration! We'll be serving up delicious tacos with seasoned chicken and beef, and we need your help to complete the meal. We're looking for all the yummy taco toppings, along with Mexican-themed side dishes and desserts to make this a meal to remember. Please bring your food donations by 5 pm on Friday 9/27. Don't forget to sign up on the Narthex bulletin board and contact Lyn Bucalo if you have any questions. Let's come together to make this a joyful and tasty fiesta for everyone at Serve City—olé!



## FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS

### **LADIES FELLOWSHIP NIGHT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 7-9PM “LET’S GET CRAFTY THIS FALL!”**

Let’s get crafty this fall for our Ladies Fellowship Night! Autumn is just around the corner, and what better way to welcome the season than by getting creative with friends? It will be a delightful Ladies Fellowship evening filled with fun, laughter, and a touch of fall flair.

This year, we’re excited to offer not one, but two charming fall crafts that you’ll be able to take home and proudly display. First, you’ll create a beautiful fall candle holder, perfect for adding a warm, cozy glow to your home as the days grow cooler. Next, we’ll guide you through making a rustic pumpkin log slice—an adorable decoration that captures the essence of autumn.



And what’s a night of crafting without some tasty treats? We’ll have plenty of refreshments on hand to keep your creative energy flowing. Best of all, this evening of fun, fellowship, and creativity comes at a minimal cost—no more than \$10.



So, grab a friend, bring your enthusiasm, and join us for a memorable evening. Whether you’re a seasoned crafter or trying something new, there’s a place for you at Ladies Fellowship Night. Let’s embrace the season together with creativity and camaraderie! Contact Sue Luken for more details.

### **RUTH CIRCLE RESUMES: JOIN US FOR A NEW SEASON OF FELLOWSHIP AND GROWTH SEPTEMBER 20, 1PM in FELLOWSHIP HALL**

After a refreshing summer break, we’re excited to announce the return of Ruth Circle, and we’re looking forward to gathering together once again! On Friday, September 20th at 1 PM in Fellowship Hall, we’ll kick off a new season filled with heartfelt conversations, spiritual nourishment, and the warmth of shared fellowship.

Ruth Circle has long been a cherished part of our church community, offering a welcoming space for women to connect, support one another, and deepen their faith. Whether you’re a long-time member or someone curious to see what Ruth Circle is all about, this is the perfect opportunity to join us.

This upcoming gathering promises to be a special one, as we’ll not only catch up with familiar faces but also introduce new activities and discussions that will inspire and uplift. We’ll explore topics that resonate with our spiritual journeys, reflect on God’s word, and share our experiences in a supportive environment.

#### **Why should you join us?**

\* **Reconnect with Friends:** After the summer hiatus, this is a wonderful chance to rekindle friendships and enjoy the company of other women in our community.

\* **Inspiration and Growth:** Engage in meaningful discussions that will challenge and encourage you in your walk with Christ.

\* **Warm Welcome:** New faces are always welcome! Whether you’re new to the group or have been thinking about joining, we’d love to have you with us.

So, mark your calendars, spread the word, and plan to be there. We’re excited to see what God has in store for us this season, and we can’t wait to share this journey with you! Contact Pam Guynes for more information.





# MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS — MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## **Member Spotlight: In Harmony with Sue “The Person Behind the Piano”**

*(An interview with Sue Combs)*

*This month, we shine our spotlight on Sue, a beloved member of our St. Mark’s family and an integral part of our Music Ministry. With a passion for music that began in her childhood, Sue has spent years using her talents to enrich our worship services. We had the pleasure of sitting down with her to learn more about her musical journey, her favorite memories, and what inspires her every time she sits down at the piano.*

**Q: What inspired you to start playing the piano?**

Sue: My inspiration came from my cousin Glinda. I remember visiting her and watching in awe as she played the piano. I just knew I wanted to do that too. Funny enough, my dad was taking guitar lessons at the time, but when he wasn’t prepared for his lessons, I’d step in and take a piano lesson instead. It became my thing, and I loved every moment of it.

**Q: What’s something funny that has happened while playing the piano?**

Sue: Oh, there have been a few funny moments! Once, I completely lost contact with the keys and had to play around the one I could see—it was a bit of an adventure! Another time, during a service, a page flew off the piano, and I had to rely on Dick Roemer to talk me through the rest of the song. It was one of those moments where you just have to laugh and keep going.

**Q: What’s your favorite song to play?**

Sue: I absolutely love playing a jazz arrangement of “Jesus Loves Me.” It’s such a light and happy piece, and it always lifts my spirits.

**Q: How much preparation do you do before a Sunday morning service?**

Sue: I like to be well-prepared, so I go to the church at least twice a week. I play through the hymns, prepare the prelude, offertory, postlude, and the choir anthem. It’s important to me to be ready, so everything flows smoothly during the service.

**Q: What do you do before you begin to play?**

Sue: I always pray that the Holy Spirit takes over. I remind myself that this is all to glorify Him and the talent He’s given me. It’s not about me; it’s about using the gift of music to worship and honor God.

**Q: What’s one of the greatest things about playing for the church?**

Sue: The greatest thing is being able to share the gifts God has given me. It’s such a blessing to be part of the worship experience and to contribute to the spiritual atmosphere of the service.

**Q: Can you share a funny memory from playing on a Sunday morning?**

Sue: Oh, definitely! Once, the custodial staff polished the organ bench a little too much. When I quickly moved from the piano to the organ, the momentum almost sent me sliding right off the bench and into the choir! It was one of those moments where you just have to laugh and thank God nothing worse happened.

**Q: What surprises people when they find out you play the piano?**

Sue: People are often surprised to learn that I have very tiny hands. It’s not what most people expect from a pianist, but it’s never held me back!

**Q: How long have you been at St. Mark’s?**

Sue: I’ve been on staff for 17 years, but I accompanied the choir for several years before that. It’s been a wonderful journey, and I’m so grateful for the time I’ve spent here.

**Q: What do you enjoy when you look out at the congregation?**

Sue: I love looking out and seeing the St. Mark’s family together. It’s such a blessing to be worshiping together, and I often find myself thinking about how fortunate we are to have this community.

**Q: When did you start playing, and what has it done for you?**

Sue: I started playing when I was just 6 years old. Music has opened so many doors in my life, and I’m so thankful to God for the gift of music. It’s been a constant source of joy and purpose.

**Q: How do you decide what to play on a Sunday morning?**

Sue: Chris and I work together to choose music that fits the sermon topic or the church season. It’s a collaborative process, and we always aim to enhance the worship experience.

**Q: What do you find to be a challenge?**

Sue: (Laughs) Dealing with Chris on a weekly basis can be a challenge, but somehow, I manage! Seriously though, it’s all in good fun. We have a great working relationship, and I enjoy the process of planning the music together.

**Q: Why is your music important, and how does it add to the service?**

Sue: Music is the foundation for hymn singing and helps set the tone for reflection during the service. I try to complement the mood and flow of the service, whether it’s uplifting or meditative. It’s all about enhancing the worship experience.

**Q: What do people compliment you on?**

Sue: People often tell me they enjoy the variety of music I play. I like to mix things up and include different styles and arrangements to keep the music fresh and engaging.

**Q: What are some accomplishments you’ve achieved in your career?**

Sue: I’ve been a music educator for 31 years, and I’ve accompanied over 100 musicals over the years. It’s been a rewarding career, and I’m proud of the work I’ve done.

**Q: Who would you like to play a duet with?**

Sue: I would have loved to play a duet with my brother. He was an amazing organist, and it would have been wonderful to have the opportunity to play an organ-piano duet with him.

**Sue’s journey with music is a testament to her faith, dedication, and love for the St. Mark’s community. We’re blessed to have her share her talents with us every Sunday, enriching our worship and lifting our spirits with her music.**

# FINANCIAL AND TRUSTEES UPDATES

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT:

### Navigating the Final Quarter of 2024

September is upon us and things here at St. Mark's are getting started. For many, vacations are in the rearview mirror, and we are setting into school routines, weekly football games, and preparing for fall.

This month, I want to share a little more detail about our financial position here at St. Mark's. I have included a chart that may help the understanding of where we are.

#### For the Month and Year-to-Date July 31, 2024

Checking Account Balance	\$51,180.25
Designated Funds*	<u>\$17,999.92</u>
Amount available for	
Monthly Expenses	\$33,180.33
Savings Account Balance	\$64,468.80
Building Improvement Fund	<u>\$39,420.07</u>
Amount available if needed for	
Monthly Expenses	\$25,048.73

*\*Designated Funds should only be used if we cannot cover the amount needed for monthly expenses. For example, Payroll, Utilities, Repairs and Maintenance, Hospitality, etc.*

The above graph shows what we had available to run the Church and cover the expenses. It is important to remember when gifts are given for Designated Giving, we cannot count on it for the monthly costs. We are not in a need situation as of today. However, I just wanted to point out these specific numbers as we head into the last quarter of the year.

As has been the case in the past several years, giving did fall off during the summer months. We have been able to continue to pay our apportionments and keep the Loan at Park National Bank current with a balance of \$24,309.55. In July, we did spend more than what we received in general and online giving with an amount of \$5,688. During July, we received \$20,832 in giving while we spent \$26,520.

I just wanted to give you a snapshot of where we were in July. Please be aware, that we will be sending out Giving Statements for the year through the end of September in October. Please review closely and contact Ruth Ritenbaugh or Cheryl Creach if there is a problem with your statement. Please contact them directly, as they are the only two who have access to the Servant Keeper records of giving. If you contact the Church, please just leave a message without details for one of them to call you back. We want to try to iron out any issues or problems before we get to the year end. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please let Bill or me know and we will address them. Gale Goodman, Finance Committee Chair  
Bill Schumacker, Treasurer

## TRUSTEES UPDATE

### Stepping into September:

Summer seemed to fly by, and this month, on September 22, at 8:44 AM, we welcome the Autumnal Equinox! Our days are getting a little shorter, and our nights a little cooler. Some may prefer the heat of Summer, while others are happy that the Dog Days are gone. Either way, your Trustees have remained hard at work, helping to complete projects on the summer to-do list. During the last Helping Hands Day, led by Matt Snyder, several church members came to help with weeding, trimming, light bulb changing, window washing, flower planting, courtyard maintenance, and other tasks. The fruits of your labor are visible and appreciated!

Projects completed include the finishing touches to Lyn Bucalo's office. Thanks again to Jeff Gering, Gil Dole, Matt Snyder, Bob Ratliff, and Lyn for all your effort in bringing this project to completion. It looks beautiful, and such an improvement! Secondly, the Security and Fire Alarm System was upgraded on August 27-28. Please note that if you have a code from the prior system, it will no longer be valid. Please contact the office for a new entry code.



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. Our final Helping Hands Workday for 2024, is scheduled for November 2, led by Kristy Theiss. Please prayerfully consider joining us on one, or both of these dates.

Respectively submitted in His service,  
Bill Dichtl Tonya Leguina



## WEEKLY AND MONTHLY GROUPS

### **LADIES MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY SEPTEMBER at 6:30PM**

Come join us, as we continue our exploration of the books of the Bible. Our study sessions offer a flexible schedule that combines both in-person and virtual meetings, making it easy for everyone to participate.

We'll meet IN-PERSON, TUESDAY, SEPT. 3 at 6:30PM this month, with the rest of our weekly gatherings held over Zoom. You're welcome to jump in at any time, as each week we deep dive into new and enriching chapters of the Bible. We provide weekly questions to guide our discussions, helping us grow in faith together. For more details, please reach out to Kym Nguyen. We look forward to studying and sharing with you!



### **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.



### **WALK/EXERCISE CLASS WEDNESDAYS at 10AM in FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Ready to boost your health in a fun and supportive environment? Perfect for all fitness levels—including beginners—this class offers a mix of walking, kicking, and sidestepping exercises that you can do at your own pace. Prefer to exercise seated? You can participate from a chair and still get a great workout! No pressure, no judgment—just friendly faces and a great way to stay active. We can't wait to see you there! Contact Ruth Ritenbaugh.



### **THE JOYFUL VOICES OF CHANCEL CHOIR WEDNESDAYS, 7:30PM**

After a well-deserved summer break, the Chancel Choir is excited to resume practice and fill our church with beautiful music once again. We gather each week and warmly welcome anyone who has a heart for singing—whether you're a seasoned vocalist or someone who simply loves to sing in the shower!

#### **Why Join the Chancel Choir?**

**A Joyful Experience:** Singing in the choir is not just about the music; it's about the joy and fellowship that comes with being part of a group united in praise. Every rehearsal is an opportunity to lift your voice, connect with others, and experience the spiritual uplift that comes from singing together.

**No Experience Needed:** It's okay if you cannot read sheet music. We believe that everyone has a voice to contribute, and our rehearsals are designed to be fun and supportive for all skill levels.

**Make a Joyful Noise:** The Choir is a vital part of our worship services, bringing warmth and inspiration to our congregation through song. By joining, you'll have the chance to sing and be a part of something truly special that enriches our worship experience.

For more information contact Chris Beiser  
We can't wait to sing with you!



### **LUNCH BUNCH RESUMES AT SHOOTER'S SEPTEMBER 24, TUESDAY AT 12PM**

We will meet on September 24 at 12PM at Shooter's Sports Grill, 877 NW Washington Blvd, Hamilton. This casual gathering is a great way for St. Mark's family to connect each month at different local restaurants. To join in September, contact Sue Beckett (513) 856-8873 by Sunday, Sept. 22, to reserve your spot.





## CHILDREN and FAMILY MINISTRY

### RE:FORM TRADITIONS WITH OUR UPCOMING CONFIRMATION CLASSES TO BEGIN IN THE FALL

Confirmation is a deeply significant journey—a time when our Youth take the faith they've inherited from the important adults in their lives and make it truly their own. It's a period of exploration, questioning, and ultimately, affirmation of their beliefs. We are thrilled to announce that the 2024/25 Confirmation Classes will begin in fall, culminating in a meaningful confirmation ceremony in the Spring/Easter.



**This is more than just a class**—it's a transformative experience that faith. It's an opportunity for them to transition from sharing the faith of others to owning it for themselves. Discover the backstory key beliefs, and practices for our Methodist tradition. Did you wonder how we got from John Wesley to where we are today? These questions and more will be answered.

**Building a Strong Foundation:** Through engaging lessons, discussions, and activities, our confirmation class will equip youth with the knowledge and understanding they need to navigate their spiritual lives with assurance.

**Community and Fellowship:** Being part of the confirmation class means joining a supportive community of peers who are on the same journey. It's a time for building lasting friendships and strengthening ties within the church family.

#### **Who Should Join?**

If you know any youth who are ready to take this important step in their faith journey, we encourage you to reach out. Whether they've grown up in the church or are new to our community, this class is open to all young people eager to explore and affirm their faith.

#### **How to Get Involved:**

Don't let this opportunity pass by! If you or someone you know would like to join the 2024/25 Confirmation Class, please contact Peggy or Pastor Mark to save a spot. Let's support our youth as they take this pivotal step toward a deeper, more personal faith. Together, we can nurture the next generation of believers.

### ANNUAL BACKPACK BLESSINGS RECAP:

On August 11th, our church community came together for a heartwarming Annual Backpack Blessings during the worship service. Students brought their backpacks to the altar, where they were surrounded by the prayers and support of the congregation. This special moment served as a reminder that our church stands with them, offering spiritual strength as they embark on the new school year. The joy and anticipation in the room were encouraging as each participant received a blessing for guidance, protection, and wisdom. We are so grateful to everyone who took part in this uplifting tradition, helping to instill a sense of peace and confidence as the academic year begins. It was truly a blessed way to start the school journey, uniting our community in faith and fellowship.



### SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT OCTOBER 20 4:30-6:00PM



# 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)



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/02	Missy LaMar	
09/02	Alethea LaMar	80
09/02	Suzan Stracke	
09/04	Ruth Ritenbaugh	
09/06	Carol Ault	
09/06	Andy Shellman	
09/07	Chelsea Menke	
09/08	Pam Guynes	
09/09	Tari Randall	
09/10	Carol Pittman	
09/10	Parker Randall	14*
09/12	Patty Coyle	90
09/12	Edith Davis	92
09/15	Linda Fenzel	
09/19	James Robinson	7*
09/20	Ruth Stanifer	
09/26	Sue Luken	
09/27	Hannah Hensler	

HAPPY  
*Anniversary*

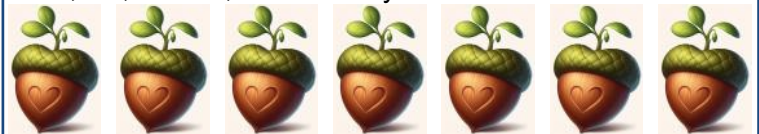
## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

09/01	Mark & Jenni Hensler	40
09/02	John & Peggy Smith	47
09/03	Dave & Cindy Booker	36
09/04	Steve & Kym Nguyen	31
09/10	Ben & Heather Chambers	19
09/11	Larry & Cheryl Creach	53
09/14	Don & Carol Ault	61
09/16	Kraig & Vicki Cavender	35
09/16	Denny & Sue Mullen	63
09/20	Roy & Helen Brown	16
09/20	Mark & Sue Luken	38
09/29	Ron & Becky Hamblin	45

## Thank you Message from The Dichtl's

Thank you, our church family, for visiting Julie in the hospital and at our home following her stroke. Your support with meals and gift cards was greatly appreciated and tasty. But most of all thank you for your prayers, thoughts, cards, flowers, and love.

Julie, Bill, Lauren, and Zachary

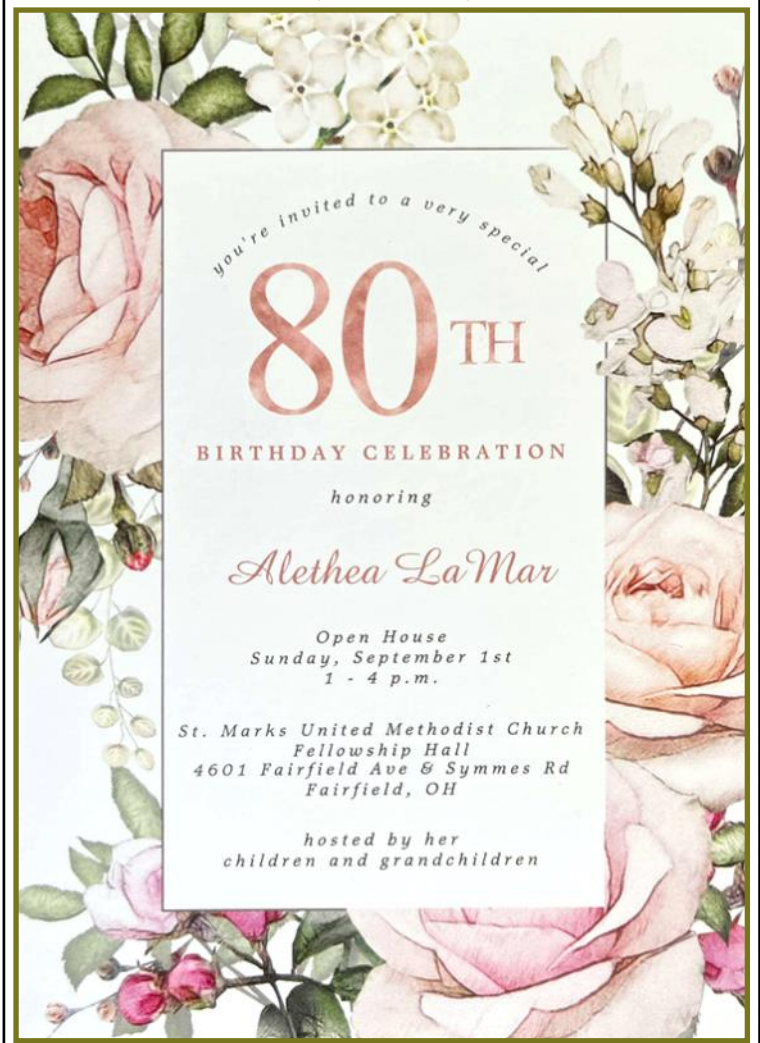


## SEPTEMBER 1—ALL ARE WELCOME TO CELEBRATE ANOTHER BIRTHDAY: HONORING ALETHEA LAMAR TURNING 80!

(Fellowship Hall, 1-4PM)

Hosted by her children and grandchildren

Come honor and send birthday wishes to Alethea on her very special day!





# ST. MARK'S CHURCH EVENTS:

## ALL CHURCH PICNIC

### **GET READY FOR OUR ALL CHURCH PICNIC SEPTEMBER 8, 5-7PM** (CHURCH SHELTER)

Mark your calendars and get ready for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship at our All Church Picnic on September 8th from 5-7 PM at the Church Shelter! We are already looking forward to this event and it is the perfect opportunity for our entire church family to come together, relax, and enjoy each other's company as we bid farewell to summer.



We'll be serving up mouthwatering pulled pork and pulled chicken BBQ, along with all the fixings—beverages, plates, napkins, and utensils will be provided, so you can focus on bringing your favorite



side dish or dessert to share. Whether it's a family recipe or a quick favorite, your contribution will help make our picnic spread even more delicious!



But it's not just about the food—this evening promises plenty of fun and games for all ages or simply enjoying a peaceful evening under the trees, there's something for everyone. And don't forget to bring your lawn chair for a cozy spot to sit back and soak in the atmosphere.



This picnic is a wonderful chance to reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and create lasting memories as a church community. So gather your family and join us for an memorable evening of laughter, fellowship, and, of course, delicious BBQ!

For more details or if you have any questions, please reach out to Peggy Smith. We can't wait to see you there—come hungry and ready for a great time!



4601 Fairfield Avenue  
Fairfield, OH 45014

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

## "SEPTEMBER SOARS: EMBRACING RENEWAL & COMMUNITY"



### **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](http://www.fairfieldstmarks.com)

### **Worship Service:**

Sundays 9:30 am  
(In-person & Livestream)