



# 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.

**OCTOBER 2024**

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### **OCTOBER 4, FRIDAY, 7-9PM**

LADIES' FELLOWSHIP FALL CRAFTS  
CONTACT SUE LUKEN (More details, page 5)

### **OCTOBER 10, THURSDAY 10:30AM**

NOMINATIONS MEETING

### **OCTOBER 13, SUNDAY**

\*PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY (Page 3)  
\*THIRD GRADE BIBLE SUNDAY (CONTACT PEGGY SMITH)  
\*PUMPKIN PATCH PICK'IN AND ACTIVITIES, (CONTACT SUE LUKEN page 5)

### **OCTOBER 17, THURSDAY, 12:30PM**

SHARED HARVEST  
CONTACT DEBBIE BRYANT (See more details on page 4)

### **OCTOBER 18, FRIDAY, 1:00PM**

RUTH CIRCLE—SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER  
CONTACT PAM GUYNES (More details, page 5)

### **OCTOBER 20, SUNDAY, 4:30-6:00PM**

FALL FEST TRUNK OR TREAT  
CONTACT PEGGY SMITH (More details, page 9)

### **OCTOBER 22, TUESDAY, 12:00PM**

LUNCH BUNCH at OLIVE GARDEN (FAIRFIELD)  
CONTACT SUE BECKETT (See more details on page 8)

### **IN NOVEMBER**

NOVEMBER 14 @ 7PM—LEAD TEAM Q&A MEETING  
NOVEMBER 19 @ 7PM—CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARK

### **Finding Hope in the Drought: A Call to Faith and Renewal**

Over the years I have lived in a few farming communities. Rain was important. Often the topic of conversation on a Sunday morning was how many inches of rain they had received during the previous rain showers during the week. Rain was life, it was their livelihoods. I remember one such summer in 1999 when a drought was in full force. I talked with a few of the farmers, and they said that they could go for one year, if it hit two years in a row it would be an issue. Living in a more urban environment I think of the farmers in dry times, because it means so much more than just a brown yard to them.



Prayers for rain are a common prayer for the people of God. We can see in the witness of the Scriptures times when the rains stopped, droughts persisted, and the people suffered. We see people crying out to God for relief, for the life that comes from the rains. In desperate times they turned to God.



As we look around outside, we see what no rain means, as our yards wither and our gardens suffer. After a while we begin to worry, to become anxious about the outcomes. It is often a metaphor for our lives. Spiritually, we can feel as if we are in a drought. Things are dry, lifeless, even dead. It persists and seems there is no end. Like the timeless story in history, we cry out to God for relief and for the rains to bring us life again.



Like all droughts, this one will come to an end, the rains will return, and life will spring forth. If you find yourself in a spiritual drought, this too will end. The rains will return, and new life will spring forth. We keep our faith and know that God will be faithful in the end. Till then we join in the timeless prayer for the rain...God Bless.





## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT AND ALETHEA LAMAR BIRTHDAY RECAP

### **Member Spotlight: Celebrating Pastor Appreciation Month**

October is a special time for us at St. Mark's, as we recognize Pastor Appreciation Month, with the second Sunday, October 13, is dedicated to honoring our beloved Pastor Mark and Diana. This is our opportunity to say a heartfelt "thank you" to those who may be most visible in our worship but who are also our unwavering spiritual support, available 24/7.

Pastors stand alongside us through life's many ups and downs, offering comfort in times of confusion, strength during sorrow, and joy in moments of celebration. They laugh with us, cry with us, and pray with us, embodying the love and compassion of Christ as they shepherd our community.

Established as a worldwide observance in 1992, Pastor Appreciation Month has its roots in biblical teachings. The Apostle Paul encouraged congregations to give "double honor" to those who lead well, particularly those involved in preaching and teaching (1 Timothy 5:17, NIV). This month is a reminder for us to reflect on the invaluable contributions of our pastoral leaders.

As we celebrate this month, we extend our deepest gratitude to Pastor Mark and Diana. Your leadership in worship, your prayers, and your steadfast presence in our lives are cherished. We are truly blessed that God brought you to St. Mark's, and we thank you for all that you do for our church family.

Let us take this opportunity to show our appreciation and love for our pastors—not just this month, but throughout the year. Your dedication does not go unnoticed, and we are thankful for your commitment to guiding us in faith.

Happy Pastor Appreciation Month and  
Thank you for all that you do!



### **In Case You Missed It: Celebrating Alethea LaMar's 80th Birthday:**



On September 1st, we had the joy of celebrating Alethea LaMar's 80th birthday with a delightful open house! Surrounded by her loving children, grandchildren, and many family members, it was a heartwarming gathering that truly honored this special milestone in Alethea's life.



The celebration featured beautifully decorated cookies, cupcakes, and a variety of tasty snacks, creating a festive atmosphere perfect for fellowship and fun. Alethea beamed with happiness, her smile lighting up the room as everyone shared stories, laughter, and love.



It was a wonderful day filled with cherished moments, and we are so grateful to have celebrated Alethea's incredible journey with her. Here's to many more years of joy and love! Happy 80th Birthday, Alethea!

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

### **OCTOBER MISSIONS: ST. MARK'S LITTLE FOOD PANTRY**

This October, we're focusing on collecting items for St. Mark's Little Food Pantry. While we welcome all donations, here's a list of items that are particularly needed:

#### **Food Items:**

All food items should be current and in non-breakable containers. Suggested items include:

- Tuna, ground beef, and chicken (Walmart and Kroger offer canned precooked ground beef that is lower in sodium)
- Any vegetables or fruits
- Any beans
- Mac and cheese
- Dry pasta and canned pasta sauce
- Cereal and instant oats
- Shelf-stable milk (cans or boxes)
- Coffee (instant is preferred)
- Individual snacks (crackers, cookies, pudding, fruit snacks)
- Boxed meal extenders (like Hamburger Helper)
- Fruit juice

#### **Personal Hygiene Items:**

We also accept personal hygiene products such as:

- Soaps
- Shampoo
- Toilet paper
- Pads
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Dental floss
- Disposable diapers
- Wipes

#### **Cleaning Supplies:**

Please limit cleaning supplies to laundry needs only.

**Thank you for your generous contributions  
to support our community!**

### **UPCOMING MISSIONS: WARM HEARTS & HANDS!**

*(Gently Used Shoes, Coats, Hats, and Gloves)*

As the chilly months draw near, we're excited to announce our Missions Drive to collect gently used shoes, coats, hats, and gloves for those in need. Your donations can bring warmth and comfort to individuals facing tough circumstances, so take a moment to sift through your closets and set aside items that deserve a second life. Together, we can make a meaningful impact in our community! Stay tuned for updates on when the collection bins will be available—let's spread warmth and kindness this season!

### **NAMI 5K WALK/RUN OCTOBER 12 at FITTON CENTER**

Get ready to step up for mental health awareness at the NAMI 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, October 12, at 9 AM! This event is a fantastic opportunity to make a difference in our community by raising funds for NAMI's mission. By participating, you'll help spread the message that no one is alone in their mental health journey.

The run/walk will take place at the Fitton Center for Creative Arts, located at 101 S. Monument Ave, Hamilton, 45011. Whether you're a seasoned runner or a casual walker, your involvement matters. Together, we can be catalysts for change and show our support for those affected by mental health challenges.

Ready to make an impact? For donations and more information, visit [namiwalks.org](http://namiwalks.org). Let's come together to raise awareness and promote understanding—your participation can help change lives!



### **SHARED HARVEST: OCTOBER 17, THURSDAY 12:30PM**

Join us on Thursday, October 17, at 12:30 PM for a rewarding volunteer opportunity with Shared Harvest! This is a wonderful chance to give back to our community and support those in need. St. Mark's is proud to partner with Shared Harvest, an organization dedicated to alleviating hunger and providing nutritious food to families across the region.

Volunteering with Shared Harvest is not only fulfilling, but it also allows you to connect with fellow congregation members while making a positive impact. Whether you're sorting food, packing boxes, or helping with distribution, your efforts will truly make a difference in the lives of others.

If you're interested in participating, please sign up on the Narthex bulletin board. For more information, feel free to reach out to Debbie Bryant, who will be happy to provide additional details. Let's come together as a community to ensure that no one in our area goes hungry!





## FELLOWSHIP and GATHERINGS

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

Join us for a fun-filled Ladies Fellowship Night as we welcome autumn with creativity and laughter! This year, we’re excited to offer two charming crafts: a beautiful fall candle holder and a rustic pumpkin log slice, perfect for adding a touch of fall to your home.



To keep your creative energy flowing, we’ll have plenty of tasty treats and refreshments available. All this for just \$10!

So, grab a friend and come ready to craft, whether you’re a seasoned pro or trying something new. Let’s embrace the season together with creativity and camaraderie! Contact Sue Luken for more details.

### **NIEDERMAN FARM EVENT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2-5PM**

We invite St. Mark’s members, youth, and their families to join us for an exciting outing to Niederman Farm! To save money, please order tickets online ahead of time for \$15 per person—tickets at the gate will be \$4 more. If any youth would like to attend but their families can’t make it, please let us know at the Welcome Center. We can help order a ticket and provide a ride, meeting at the church at 1:45 PM.

We’d love to know who’s planning to join us, so please sign up at the Welcome Center. Tickets can be purchased at [niedermanfamilyfarm.com](http://niedermanfamilyfarm.com). All-access admission is valid for the entire day and includes a variety of activities, such as the 4-acre corn maze, wagon rides, jumping pillow, animal exhibits, wagon ride, duck races, life size chess, bonfire pits, and much more! Children under 2 get in free, and senior tickets (ages 65+) are available for \$10 at the gate with ID.

For questions, contact Peggy Smith or Sue Luken from the CYF Team. We look forward to a fantastic day together!

Please note the site to buy tickets is:  
[niedermanfamilyfarm.com](http://niedermanfamilyfarm.com)

### **RUTH CIRCLE: SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER OCTOBER 18, 1PM in FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Ladies, mark your calendars for an uplifting afternoon at Ruth Circle this month! We are excited to welcome the inspiring Rhonda Benson as our special guest speaker.

Rhonda brings a message of hope and healing that’s perfect for anyone navigating the challenges of grief, especially those affected by suicide or drug overdoses. This event is all about connection, support, and finding light even in tough times.

At Butler County, our LOSS/DOSS teams are dedicated volunteers trained to provide compassionate care during some of life’s most challenging moments. These incredible individuals step in when tragedy strikes, offering essential resources and unwavering support to families in need. Their work is a beacon of hope, reminding us that healing is possible, and we’re never truly alone on our journey.

What’s unique about this event is the focus on thriving rather than just surviving. The LOSS/DOSS team is committed to helping you find strength and resilience after loss. They provide follow-up support that empowers individuals to embrace life again, turning pain into purpose and fostering a sense of community among those who understand.

So, let’s come together and bring a friend for this special afternoon. We will share stories, foster connections, and continue to build a supportive community. Rhonda’s words promise to uplift and inspire, reminding us all that there’s always hope on the horizon.



## MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

### Embracing Autumn:

#### A Season of Reflection and Music

Autumn has a unique feeling, one that resonates differently for each of us. Picture this: you're driving through the mountains with the windows down, a chilly breeze dancing across your face. The vibrant red and orange leaves swirl around you as they fall from the trees, and in that moment, what song fills the air? *For me, it's the comforting song of "How Great Thou Art."*



Now imagine you're sitting in the back of a pickup truck, or perhaps you've got the top down in your car, lying in the grass beneath a starry sky. What melody do you hear? *I can't help but softly sing, "It is Well with My Soul."* It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.



Music during this beautiful season evokes a sense of both beginnings and endings. As the last warm days fade and the air gets crisp, the colors shift around us, and daylight shortens. Autumn envelops us in a cozy embrace, inviting reflection and gathering, reminding us of cherished memories.

As we move into the season here at St. Mark's, I hope to channel these emotions into our congregational hymn singing. The choir will present a rich tapestry of music, including handbells, solo performances, and instrumental pieces. We'll explore various styles, blending the familiar with the new, each melody stirring the spirit of autumn within us.

Before we know it, the Advent and Christmas seasons will be upon us again. Soon, we'll announce the chosen date for this year's Christmas Cantata. I encourage everyone to consider joining us for rehearsals and Cantata Sunday. This is a wonderful opportunity to become part of the choir, even if just for a short time. We'll rehearse the cantata first, allowing you to sing along and then head off on your way.

Throughout the holiday season, there will be many chances to enjoy our music ministry—both handbells and choir performances. Once the details are finalized, I'll share all the information with you.

As we kick off rehearsals for choir and handbells, remember it's never too late to join us! We have a fantastic time selecting musical pieces for our Sunday services, and we'd love for you to be part of it.



***Sue would do cartwheels*** (yes, actual cartwheels!) if we could get hold of a few more bell ringers, and more choir members might even inspire me to attempt a cartwheel myself! How could you resist the chance to see that? We look forward to sharing this beautiful season with you.



# FINANCIAL AND TRUSTEES UPDATES

## AUTUMN FINANCIAL UPDATE: Preparing for Year-End

Happy Fall, Everyone! It seems like we just celebrated the 4th of July and here we are in October. The Holiday Season is just around the corner. Year-end will be coming before we know it.

Here's the latest financial update for St. Mark's through August 31, 2024. Our checking account has \$45,695, while the savings account holds \$64,469, with \$39,420 earmarked for St. Mark's Campus Improvements. We ended August with a deficit of \$3,408, and our loan balance at Park National Bank is \$23,566, with all payments current. We've paid \$26,751 of our \$35,357 apportionments for this year.

Keep an eye out for your YTD September 30th "Giving Statements," which will be mailed out in October by Ruth Ritenbaugh and Cheryl Creach. Please review them carefully. If you notice any discrepancies, contact Ruth or Cheryl directly, as they are the only ones that have access to the giving records. If you phone the church office, please leave a message for them to return your call. They will be able to correct any issues to the statements after reviewing.

These statements will also help you plan your year-end giving to St. Mark's as we look ahead to 2025. Speaking of year-end, this is the schedule for us receiving any gifts at the end of the calendar year.

### LAST DATES to give a gift is as follows:



**\*In-Person Gifts:** Last day to drop off gifts outside of worship is Friday, December 27, 2024.



**\*Mail Gifts:** Must be postmarked by Saturday, December 28, 2024.



**\*Worship Gifts:** Last day to give during worship is Sunday, December 29, 2024.

We'll remind everyone of these dates in the December newsletter and bulletins. Year-end comes quickly, so we want to ensure your gifts are processed and recorded for this year for our statements.

Thank you for your attention! If you have questions about church finances or giving dates, feel free to reach out to Bill or me. Again, for any inquiries about your Giving Statements, please contact Ruth or Cheryl.

Enjoy the cool crisp fall temps coming our way!  
Gale Goodman, Finance Committee Chair  
Bill Schumacker, Treasurer

## TRUSTEES UPDATE

### EMBRACING AUTUMN: Preparing for the Season Ahead

The American novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne stated in The American Notebooks, "...I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house. So, I have spent almost all the daylight hours in the open air."

We can certainly relate to this sentiment. October is a favorite month for many of us. What is there not to love? It is such a cozy and comfortable time of year. The sights of brilliant warm colors painted across the trees, the old familiar scents of bonfires, pumpkin spice, warm cinnamon apple pie, warm soups, and drinks are all in abundance. Then, on its way out, October gives us Halloween! I love seeing all the kids dressed up in their fun costumes, and all the decorations. Whether it's a warm day or a cooler one, rainy or sunny, October always brings delightful surprises.



As always, your Trustees are working to make sure the church and parsonage grounds are ready for colder weather. The All-Church Workday that was held in September, under the capable leadership of Penny Dole, was very productive. The weather was perfect for working outside, so a lot of trimming and weeding was done on the church grounds, and in the courtyard. On the inside of the church, there was the cleaning out of closets and organizing spaces for better utilization. In addition, four new and updated exteriors, lighted wall sconces were installed. A big thank you to Shane Becker and Rick Kiefer for completing this for us! They look beautiful and will hopefully keep our entryways well-lit with the darkness falling earlier in the fall and winter months. Thank you to everyone who came to help. Your efforts are visible and greatly appreciated.

Our final All-Church Helping Hands Workday for 2024 is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, with Kristy Theiss as the Lead Trustee. In the meantime, if you notice an area that needs attention, please let one of us know. Respectively submitted in His service,  
Bill Dichtl and Tonya Leguina

## WEEKLY AND MONTHLY GROUPS

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

We are steadily working our way through the bible each week. 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, MONDAY, OCT. 7 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.



### **LUNCH BUNCH RECAP:**

#### **A Delightful Gathering at Shooter's**

On September 24, the Lunch Bunch resumed at Shooter's Sports Grill, where members of the St. Mark's family came together for a delightful midday gathering. Shooter's provided a welcoming atmosphere for everyone to reconnect over good food and lively conversation.



This casual meet-up is a fantastic way for our community to strengthen bonds and share stories while enjoying local dining spots each month. Attendees enjoyed a variety of delicious dishes, all while catching up and making new memories together. The laughter and camaraderie truly highlighted the spirit of our St. Mark's family.



Kathy Bradley particularly enjoyed her chocolate brownie lava cake with ice cream, proudly wielding two spoons in hand while leaving everyone else envious—and unfortunately, no one got a bite! If you missed this month's gathering, don't worry! We'll continue to explore different local restaurants in the future. The Lunch Bunch outing is a wonderful way to engage with our community and make lasting connections!



**The next  
Lunch Bunch event  
October 22  
Olive Garden  
(Fairfield)**



## 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 FALL FEST TRUNK or TREAT OCTOBER 20 4:30-6:00PM

Get ready for a fun-filled evening at our **Fall Fest and Trunk or Treat** event that promises to be an exciting experience for everyone, featuring a petting zoo, delicious food, and plenty of fun activities for all ages.



There are many ways to get involved: decorate your car and pass out candy to the children, dress up in costume and hand out treats, or donate individually wrapped candy (*donation boxes will be located in the Welcome Center*). You can also help by serving food, directing traffic, or simply coming to enjoy the festivities and fellowship with our community.



Set up will begin at **3PM**, so feel free to join us early to help prepare for this exciting event. **Please note that for the comfort of our farm animals, we kindly ask that you leave pets at home.** Mark your calendars and get ready for a wonderful evening of laughter, joy, and community spirit! We can't wait to see you there!



# 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)



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/01	Cheryl Klug	
10/02	Sam Davis	
10/03	Jack Nguyen	
10/03	Richard Shaw	
10/03	Linda Thomas	
10/04	Rich Turner	
10/05	Gale Goodman	
10/09	Roy Brown	
10/09	Don Menke	
10/13	Beth Zimmerman	
10/15	Sue Mullen	
10/16	Heather Chambers	
10/16	Hugh Guynes	
10/17	Don Ault	
10/17	Larry Creach	
10/17	Tonya Leguina	
10/20	Anne Hennen	
10/22	Jenni Hensler	
10/25	Eleanor McCollum	100!!!
10/27	Marty Kubik	
10/30	Maxine Craig	
10/30	John Smith	
10/31	Shirley Howell	

HAPPY  
*Anniversary*

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/05	Wade & Nancy Lewis	63
10/11	Gil & Penny Dole	16
10/15	Kyle & Alex Robinson	13
10/23	Brian & Marla George	25
10/23	John & Katie Meyer	14

### **Thank you Message from Mike Fitzpatrick**

I want to thank everyone for all of your calls, cards, and prayers during my illness and surgery. I greatly appreciate your love and support.



### **Thank you Message from Viola Pater**

Dear St. Mark's Family,  
Thank you so much for your heartfelt prayers and thoughts during my healing. I'm happy to share that I am doing better and your support has meant the world to me!

### **100 CARDS/NOTES for Eleanor McCollum 100th Birthday!**

100 Cards and Notes for Eleanor McCollum who turns 100 years old on October 25, 2024!

Happy Birthday Eleanor!

The McCollum Family asks for your help in sending a card or note to Eleanor to celebrate her 100th birthday. Our goal is 100 cards to give her to celebrate a life of faith, love, selfless giving and serving the needs of others. She is doing great and is excited about hearing from us.

### **Send cards or notes to:**

Eleanor McCollum  
C/O Greta Smith  
988 Symmes Road  
Fairfield, OH 45014





# ST. MARK'S CHURCH EVENTS:

## ALL CHURCH PICNIC RECAP

### **ALL CHURCH PICNIC – RECAP** **What a Fantastic Evening Picnic!**

We had a wonderful evening at our All-Church Picnic on September 8! The weather was perfect, creating an ideal setting for a delightful blend of food, fun, and fellowship as our church family came together to bid a warm farewell to summer.



The highlight of the evening was the mouthwatering pulled pork and pulled chicken BBQ, accompanied by a wide array of home-cooked dishes. Our dedicated team ensured that everyone had plenty to enjoy, with tasty options like potato salad, baked beans, deviled eggs, and a variety of sides and desserts.



**A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed; your culinary efforts helped create a delicious spread for all to enjoy.**



But the fun didn't stop at just food! The evening was filled with engaging games and activities for all ages. From children enjoying giant Jenga to adults competing in cornhole, and from reconnecting with old friends to simply relaxing under the trees, there was something for everyone. It was heartwarming to see so many members of our church family participating and having a great time.



We want to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who made the All-Church Picnic a success. Your participation—whether helping with setup, contributing dishes, or just enjoying the evening—played a crucial role in making this event a hit.



As we look back on this wonderful evening, we're already excited about next year's picnic. Until then, let's carry the spirit of community and togetherness from this event into our everyday lives.



Thank you once again for joining us and making the All-Church Picnic such a memorable event. And a special thank you to Sue Luken, Peggy Smith and their team for coordinating the picnic.

Here's to many more gatherings filled with joy, laughter, and great company!



4601 Fairfield Avenue  
Fairfield, OH 45014

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

## "HARVEST OF BLESSINGS: OCTOBER at SMUMC"



### **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)