



THE 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

"IT'S FALL..."

Over the last few months, we've walked together through our sermon series entitled: *"The Afterlife."* By the time this newsletter reaches you, that journey will have come to a close. I pray it has given you clarity, comfort, and hope for the promises of God that await us.

fall and will be out for a few weeks. I would like to "pre" thank folks that are making that happen. As of this writing, I am not sure when that is exactly and should know that in a few weeks.

"BE INSPIRED, REFRESHED, AND ENCOURAGED..."

As we move into Fall, we will be jumping into the Book of James. I have been around the church for a long time, and you can count on one thing—everyone loves the Book of James. It's no-nonsense, easy to understand, and practical.

After the pauses and busy-ness of summer, it's a time to come back to the rhythms that steady and nourish us—worship, choirs, bible studies, community services, and fellowship groups and events. My prayer is that as we round out 2025, God would bless us with renewed energy and joy, and that each of us would be inspired, refreshed, and encouraged in our faith as we seek Christ together.

God Bless,
Pastor Mark

However, those are not the only reasons people enjoy this book. It speaks to a faith we can touch and feel, offers wisdom that makes sense, and gives advice for the challenges we face every day. Join us this Fall as we move through the Book of James together..

As some of you may know, I was recently diagnosed with cancer. I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, concern, and compassion up to this point. I will be undergoing treatment at some point this



"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

—Colossians 2:6–7

WHAT'S INSIDE:

SMUMC Calendar &
Upcoming Events pg 2

SMUMC Mission
and Outreach pg 3

SMUMC Fellowship
pg 4 & 5

SMUMC Music and
Worship pg 6

SMUMC Children,
Youth, & Family
Ministry pg 7

90 (+) Birthday
Honorees Party pg 8

SMUMC Finance &
Lead Team Notes pg 9

SMUMC Family Matters
Members
Spotlight pg 10

SMUMC Family Matters
Birthday/Anniversary/
Gratitude pg 11

CHURCH CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars: 'What's Happening'

As we welcome the beauty of Fall, we also step into a season of renewal and reflection—a time to let God's Word take deeper root in our lives. At St. Mark's, faith grows not only through study, but through worship, meaningful relationships, and serving others with love. Whether through Bible studies, small groups, music ministry, or fellowship events, there are many opportunities this season to grow closer to God and to one another.

After a time of summer rest, many of our weekly and monthly groups have returned this Fall, refreshed and ready to continue the journey of faith together. We invite you to embrace this season with purpose—walking in God's light, offering thanksgiving for His blessings, and encouraging one another in faith and love.

NOVEMBER

November 1—Helping Hands—All Church Work Day, Sat., 9am
Watch the bulletins for information.



November 2—All Saints Sunday at 9:30am during worship

November 8—Matthew 25 Ministries, Saturday, at 11:00am
Sign up at the Narthex bulletin board or contact Lynne Schumacker.

November 16—December 14 Parkside Giving Tree
Information will be in the bulletin and Sunday service announcements.

November 16—Basket Weaving with Peggy Smith, Sunday
Join us for a hands-on craft time as Peggy teaches us the timeless skill of basket weaving—come create your own handmade basket and enjoy fellowship together. No experience needed!

November 21—Ruth Circle, Friday at 1:00pm

November 21—Serve City, Friday from 5:00-6:30pm
We will have a Thanksgiving Theme for the residents. There will be a food and volunteering sign up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board. Contact Lyn Bucalo.

November 23—Decorate the Sanctuary, Sunday at 5:00pm
Come share in the joy of preparing our church for the Advent and Christmas season—join us as we decorate the sanctuary. Contact Sue Luken.



November 27-28—Thanksgiving Holiday, Office Closed

November 30—Advent & Potluck Celebration, Sunday
Information will be in the bulletins or contact Peggy Smith.

DECEMBER

December 11—Ohio Military Band Holiday Concert, Thursday at 7:30pm

December 14—Parkside Giving Tree Deadline with wrapped gifts

December 19—Ruth Circle Christmas Luncheon and Gifts at 12:00pm

December 21—St. Mark's Christmas Cantata, Sunday at 9:30am

December 24—Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm

CHURCH GROUPS:

Nov/Dec—Monday Ladies Group Study at 6:30pm
Reading *Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible*. Meet in person (with dinner) the first Monday; continue via Zoom on other Mondays—contact Kym Nguyen.

Wednesdays at 7:30am is Men's Prayer & Support Group (Prayer Room). Contact: Jeff Gering.

Wednesdays at 2-3pm is Bible Study Group. Contact: Sue McDaniel.

Wednesdays at 6:30pm is Handbell Practice. Contact: Sue Combs.

Wednesdays at 7:30pm is Choir Rehearsal. Contact Chris Beiser.



Each Sunday, the altar flowers remind us of God's beauty and the simple joy of giving. Whether shared in honor of a loved one, to celebrate a special occasion, or simply to brighten the sanctuary, these arrangements fill our worship space with warmth and grace.

After the service, the flowers are shared again—bringing comfort and cheer to others that receive them.

When we give flowers, they bloom twice—once in worship, and again in someone's heart.



ST MARK'S MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Serving with Purpose and Heart: Wrapping Up a Season of Service as We Enter a Season of Giving

As summer turned to fall, St. Mark's Cares continued its mission of living out faith through service. From shared meals and packed food boxes to birthday kits and awareness walks, our congregation has shown what it means to serve with compassion and purpose—loving our neighbors in both word and action.

Matthew 25 Ministries

Volunteers served in May and August, packing supplies for families and disaster-relief efforts—simple acts that brought comfort and hope far beyond our walls.



Broken Bus Ministry

In June, our team distributed food, water, and supplies to those experiencing homelessness, sharing prayers, encouragement, and dignity along the way.



Serve City

Two themed meals made a big impact this year: a Tropical Dinner in June and a State Fair Feast in September. Bright décor, good food, and laughter reminded residents they are loved and remembered.

Fairfield Food Pantry

Also in June, members assembled **50 birthday kits** filled with cake mix, frosting, candles, and party items. Thanks to Debbie Bryant for delivering them—these have become one of the pantry's most popular items!



Fairfield City Schools

In July, under Jenni Hensler's leadership, our school-supply drive equipped local students for a confident start to the year—thanks to everyone who donated.

Healing Center

On October 4, volunteers toured and served at the Healing Center, sorting donations and providing care, food, and encouragement. Thank you to Cindy Miller for coordinating this outreach.



Shared Harvest

With Debbie Bryant leading, our teams packed food boxes in July and again on October 6, helping ensure families had nourishment and hope through summer and fall.



Lasagna Love

On October 10, laughter filled Fellowship Hall as volunteers prepared 12 homemade lasagnas for families in need. Special thanks to Cindy Miller for leading this delicious effort.



NAMI 5K Walk/Run

On October 11, (5) members walked and raised over \$250 for mental-health awareness.

We also celebrate Suzan Stracke, honored in July as NAMI Volunteer of the Year!



In October, the **St. Mark's Cares Team** shared a dinner of fellowship and laughter—celebrating another meaningful season of service together.



As we enter a new "Season of Giving," St. Mark's Cares looks forward to even more opportunities to share warmth, hope, and Christ's love throughout our community.



Pickleball with Pastor

Serving Up Fun & Fellowship!



All summer long, laughter and friendly competition filled the court during Pickleball with the Pastor! Players of all experience levels joined in to learn the basics—how to serve, score, dink, and master the ever-tricky kitchen. Pastor Mark was right there learning alongside the group, proving that everyone starts somewhere—and that a few missed shots are all part of the fun!

Monthly Lunch Bunch



The Lunch Bunch meets on the 4th Tuesday, monthly, gathering for good food, conversation, and fellowship. Whether at a favorite local restaurant or trying somewhere new, this group enjoys spending time together and a good meal. Each outing offers a chance to connect, catch up, and strengthen the bonds of our church family in a relaxed setting. It's a simple tradition that brings comfort, friendship, and a sense of belonging. Everyone is welcome.

CYF Family Picnic

Fun, Fellowship, and Friendly Competition at the Annual Family Picnic

September brought sunshine, smiles, and plenty of fun as CYF Ministries who sponsored our annual Family Picnic. This year, we added a few new activities to the mix—a friendly Cornhole Tournament and Bingo for the adults—which gave everyone a chance to join in the excitement as well as eating delicious foods!



Pastor Mark managed the cornhole brackets with his usual good humor, keeping the competition organized and full of laughs as players advanced from one board to the next. Even those who didn't win their first round stayed in the action, narrowing the field until the ultimate champions—**Mike Fitzpatrick and Don Stewart**—claimed their well-earned victory!



Meanwhile, under the shelter, a steady game of Bingo offered a relaxing break for those who preferred a slower pace, while on the other side, Giant Jenga matches brought bursts of laughter and cheers with every wobble and crash.



CYF Family Picnic



The afternoon offered something for everyone—whether competing for the winning toss, carefully pulling a Jenga block, or simply relaxing in good company. As the sun dipped lower and the last games wrapped up, smiles and laughter lingered across the shelter grounds. It was one of those simple, joy-filled days that reminded us how blessed we are to share life together at St. Mark's.



Sometimes, the best ministry happens in the smiles, conversations, and shared laughter of a good day spent together.



Celebrating Pastor Mark Thank You for 35 Years in Ministry

Pastor Appreciation Month: Celebrating Our “Boss-tober” Hero

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time to show gratitude for the people who guide us with faith, wit, and emotion. Here at St. Mark’s, we took that to heart in true creative fashion! Throughout the month, Pastor Mark was celebrated not only for his faithful leadership but also for his good-natured sense of comedy as we launched our first-ever “Boss-tober” celebration.



From collectible Boss-merica trading cards and “Employee of the Month” signs to playful surprises around the office, Pastor Mark experienced appreciation in a way only St. Mark’s could pull off. His chair was wrapped in bright caution tape, and his door was covered in a colorful sea of sticky-note sayings—each one filled with encouragement, jokes, and reminders of just how much he’s loved.



On Sunday, October 12, we gathered after worship in Fellowship Hall for cake, ice cream, and a short program honoring Pastor Mark’s 35 years of ministry within the United Methodist Church. The afternoon was full of chuckles, stories, and gratitude for his warmth, steadiness, and the gentle way he leads.



Pastor Mark’s presence at St. Mark’s since June 2023 has brought renewed joy and direction to our congregation. His blend of wit, humility, and heartfelt faith reminds us that leading with love—and a little laughter—goes a long way.



If you missed the celebration, there’s still time to join in! Notes, cards, and messages of appreciation can be dropped off in box at the Welcome counter thru end of October.



“Your steady presence and genuine faith keep us anchored in God’s truth and growing in grace. You remind us that ministry is not just about leading from the front, but walking alongside others with patience, laughter, and love.”

Make a Joyful Noise (and Try to Stay on Beat)

It's fall so that means church choir is starting back, time to dust off the folders, fine the pencil you swear you keep with the music, pretend you haven't forgotten how to count to four and acquaint yourself with the holiness and hilarity that is choir life. I hope this gives every choir singer a chuckle and a grin. So here are some general rules for a good church choir...

1. Mark Thy Music:

A pencil mark is worth not getting "the Look!" If the director says "mark that," it does not mean "nod your head and then forget." The spirit may move you, but the director still expects everyone to end together at measure 42.

2. Blend, Don't Bellow:

Choir isn't an episode of America Idol. Blessed are the meek, and choir is not a solo sport. This is a choir, if you can hear yourself above everyone else, congratulation—so can the rest of us. Remember: God actually prefers everyone to sing the same vowel sound.

3. Attendance is Next to Godliness:

When you skip rehearsal, the angels weep. When you arrive late, the altos roll their eyes. If you wander in with Starbucks, you will be judged accordingly. We can see you. We can hear you.

5. Don't Skip a Beat:

Did you notice I just skipped right past number 4? Exactly. That's what you do when you rush through the anthem. Keep the tempo! Heaven may forgive you, but the director won't.

6. The Spirit Moves, But Singers Count:

Look, we know you felt "led" to enter four measures early. We know you thought the Spirit whispered, "Go ahead, belt it." But I've also known the Spirit to have been known to whisper: "Stay with the beat!"

7. Dynamics Are Not Suggestions:

Fortissimo does not mean "sing like you're calling children home for dinner." Pianissimo does not mean "stop singing and just keep your mouth moving." Messo forte does not mean "sing however you want." Dynamics are the Ten Commandments of volume, not suggestions.

8. Thou Shalt Not Weaponize Cologne:

If your fragrance can drop a choir member from ten paces, it's too much. Choir lofts are small. We will love you even if you just smell like soap.

9. Pray for the Accompanist:

When the pianist plays something wrong on the piano, we smiles and pray—Yea, though it may sound like we're walking through the valley of the shadow of death and wrong chords, we will fear no evil. For we're walking in grace—and you certainly don't want me to play. Amen.

10. Remember Why We Sing:

We sing to bless, not impress. We don't sing to be flawless. Yes, sometimes we miss the high note. Yes, we sometimes fumble around trying to find the right pitch. And yes—it's a full-on miracle when the tenors are holding the right piece of music

Those are NOT real life examples:

I made them up for the grins!

But at the end of the day, the reason we sing is not perfection. We sing because the world is noisy with grief and greed, and somebody's got to fling beauty back into it. We sing because joy need witnesses. Because voices stitched together can become something larger than ourselves. Because sometimes the only way to remind the world—and our weary selves—that joy still exists is to sing it into being.

So welcome back, choir. Warm up your voices.

Sharpen your pencils. Open your hearts.

And remember:

The choir may not always be perfect, but it is glorious. And so are you!



OUR KIDS HAVE BEEN ON THE MOVE!

Faith, Fun & Pharaohs!

It's been a wonderfully full and faith-filled season for our CYF Ministry! From summer adventures to acts of kindness, our young disciples have been busy learning, serving, and growing together.

This year's **VBS— "Joseph's Journey: From Prison to Palace,"** set the tone for a summer of inspiration and discovery. Children stepped into the world of ancient Egypt to experience Joseph's incredible story of faith, forgiveness, and God's unfailing plan. With the help of many volunteers, our sanctuary as well as other church areas were transformed into a lively marketplace filled with crafts, games, and storytelling that brought Scripture to life.



One of the highlights of the week was Pastor Mark appearing in full Pharaoh costume, much to the delight of the kids! His enthusiasm and humor made the stories even more memorable, reminding everyone that learning about God's Word can be both powerful and fun.



In August, **Backpack Blessings**, a heartfelt moment to pray over our students, teachers, and backpacks as a new school year began. Each child was reminded that wherever they go.



Our families also enjoyed time together outside the church walls with fun summer outings like putt-putt and bowling — opportunities to laugh, connect, and strengthen friendships within our church family.

The spirit of giving continued into fall as the **children helped stock our Mini Food Pantry** multiple times, learning firsthand the joy of serving others and caring for those in need.

Most recently, we celebrated **Third Grade Bible Sunday**, a cherished tradition at St. Mark's. Each third grader received their very own Bible — a milestone moment symbolizing our shared commitment to help every child grow in faith and understanding of God's Word.

We also wrapped up the season with a joyful **CYF Family Picnic**, where laughter and fellowship filled the air. Families gathered to share food, play games, and simply enjoy being together — a fitting celebration of all God has done through this ministry in recent months. (*Photos on page 4*)



From laughter-filled outings to moments of quiet devotion, it's clear that God is moving in the hearts of our young people. We are deeply grateful for the parents, volunteers, and leaders who continue to nurture this vital ministry — planting seeds of faith that will flourish for years to come.

CELEBRATING OUR 90(+) BIRTHDAY HONOREES

A DAY OF JOY AND MEMORIES SEPTEMBER 7, 2025



A Celebration to Remember

After Sunday worship, our church family gathered for a heartfelt celebration honoring those who turned 90 years old (or more) this year. Fellowship Hall was beautifully transformed into a banquet room, complete with a special table for our honorees and a festive potluck spread that filled the hallway with the aroma of home-cooked dishes.



Smiling faces, laughter, and confetti-covered tables set the tone for a joyful afternoon. Each honoree brought a baby photo, which became part of a delightful guessing game that had everyone reminiscing and sharing stories from days gone by.

Moments of Music and Memories

Pastor Mark opened the celebration with a word of blessing & gratitude for our honorees' faith & dedication.



Kathy Fitzpatrick followed with a beautiful musical tribute, including a humorous moment counting just how many candles it would take to represent our combined honorees' birthdays — **1,017 candles in all!**

Then Chris Beiser took everyone on a nostalgic journey through time, highlighting fun facts and famous inventions from the years our honorees were born. His lively storytelling sparked smiles and laughter as many remembered "the good old days."



A Community United in Love

Each honoree enjoyed VIP seating surrounded by the warmth of family, friends, and longtime church companions. The atmosphere was filled with laughter, conversation, and heartfelt joy as everyone shared cake, ice cream, and joined in a spirited rendition of "Happy Birthday."



Fellowship Hall was transformed into a cheerful celebration space, adorned with festive décor and photographs that sparked memories of years gone by. Dozens of dedicated volunteers made the day possible — from decorating and organizing the potluck meal to greeting guests and capturing precious photos of the honorees with Pastor Mark, their families, and one another.



LEAD TEAM NOTES

FINANCE NOTES and LEAD TEAM INSIGHTS

Hope everyone was able to enjoy Ohio's First Fake Fall a few weeks ago. Now that Second Summer has arrived, we know that the real Fall is coming. Just like the changing seasons, St Mark's is coming out of summer vacation trips and weekend get-a-ways. The finances of St. Mark's have held relatively strong through the summer months. With that lead in, I will give let you know where we stand.

This information is based on the closing of the month of August. Currently, September is still open, therefore, has not yet been reconciled. The financial position of St. Mark's is good. The reconciled balance in the checking account was \$53,064.51. We have \$70,276.41 in the savings account. As always, I need to point out only \$30,856.14 of the Savings Account can be used for Operating Expenses for the Church. With \$39,420.27 being held for Improvements to the St Mark's Campus.

Many of you attended the brief meeting after worship on September 14. The Lead team wanted to inform the Congregation of some expenditures that have been approved. During the summer, we had several leaks in the roof located above the kitchen and hallway. Three estimates were gathered and presented to the Lead Team for approval. We voted on the estimate that best fit the needs of St. Mark's. The repairs are going to cost about \$20,000. We will be taking those funds from the \$39,420.27 that can only be used on repairs and improvements to our facility and grounds. That work will start in the not-so-distant future.

In addition to the roof work, you may have noticed the new microphones in the Chancel. Those were purchase to enhance the sound not only in the Sanctuary, but to our followers on Facebook and YouTube. Those funds will be coming out of the Music Ministry budget, along with the new sound equipment, a problem with the electrical work in the ceiling of the Chancel has also been identified. We have contacted a local electrician and that work will begin soon. That work will cost the us about \$5000. Some electrical issues have been identified at the parsonage as well. The cost for those repairs will run around \$1100. Both amounts will be coming out of the \$39,420.27.

It is worth pointing out that our \$39,000 amount will be taking a hit in the coming month or so. Please consider helping us to rebuild that fund for future repairs and replacements to the campus here at St. Mark's. We certainly appreciate those of you who are already helping us with your weekly and monthly gifts to the Capital Campaign.

We are still moving \$825 each month from the checking account to the savings account to help get ready for any future issues with our buildings and grounds. At this point (through August) we have been able to transfer \$6600.

It has been through your faithfulness in giving that we have been able to transfer those funds. In addition, your faithfulness has helped us to stay current with our financial obligations and apportionment payments to Conference. We ask for your continued support of the Ministries here at St. Mark's through your thoughts, prayers, and gifts.

Recently, we have encountered a few problems while processing checks that we have received. So, we

have listed a few ways to help us with the processing of checks.

Make sure that the Pay to the Order of is St. Marks United Methodist Church. Use **DARK** ink when writing out your check. When removing your check from the checkbook, please make sure that the check number that is in the upper right-hand corner is intact.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We will be happy to address them.

Bill Schumacker, Treasurer

Gale Goodman and Steve Nguyen Finance Representatives to the Lead Team

LEAD TEAM NOTES



Every month our Lead Team gathers to pray, plan, and discern the best ways to care for both our church and community. We believe it's important for you to know what is happening behind the scenes, so we want to share some of the latest steps we've taken and the progress being made together:

- Lead team held a "Meet the Team" night where we discussed with folks what we have been doing, visioning, and the roles each member has on the lead team.
- Lead team worked on a facility audit, where we toured our building and grounds. This took several months to complete. The audit helps us to be aware of issues, prioritize maintenance, and make plans to enable our facility to best fit our needs.
- There are many reports that need to be done for the broader church. Lead Team completed work on yearly clergy evaluation and SMART Goals. Annual audit, trustees report, and parsonage inspection. They have also completed recommended clergy compensation and nominations for upcoming Church conference.
- Lead Team has spent the summer addressing some facility issues. A roofer has been secured and will begin work on portions of our flat roof that have been leaking. Additional sound has been added to the sanctuary to serve the choir and streaming. Electrical work is planned to fix some lighting and electrical issues in the sanctuary and also the parsonage.

ST. MARK'S FAMILY MATTERS—MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

PAM GUYNES

A Heart for Service: Celebrating Pam

If you've spent any time at St. Mark's, you've likely experienced Pam's kindness, laughter, and dedication. Since joining in 1987, she has faithfully served in countless ways, blessing generations of our church family. We are grateful to celebrate her in this month's Member Spotlight.

One of Pam's longest and most meaningful commitments has been leading Ruth Circle, a group where women come together for fellowship, prayer, and service. Pam has guided this ministry with grace and energy, creating a space where women can grow closer to each other and to God. Her leadership has encouraged many to step forward in faith, and her steady spirit continues to inspire new generations to participate.

Hospitality is another one of Pam's many gifts. For years, she has hosted Memorial meals for families walking through the tender time of saying goodbye to a loved one. Her compassionate touch and careful attention to detail ensure that every meal is more than just food—it is an expression of love and comfort, reminding families that their church family is holding them close.

Pam also leads a small Bible study group, where she brings scripture to life with insight and joy. Her thoughtful approach to God's Word helps others grow deeper in their faith, and her ability to make the Bible both practical and meaningful has left a lasting impact on many. In Pam's group, no question is too small, no laugh is out of place, and no heart is left untouched.

Above all, Pam is a reminder of what it means to be a servant-hearted disciple of Christ. Her years of faithful service aren't just a reflection of what she has done—they are a testimony to who she is: someone who loves God and loves people. We give thanks for Pam's ongoing commitment and joy, and we are excited to continue this journey of faith with her in the years ahead!



♥ ***Pam, your wholehearted service and love for others have been a true reflection of Christ's heart. We give thanks for the many ways you continue to bless this church family.***

***“Serve wholeheartedly,
as if you were serving the Lord, not people.”
— Ephesians 6:7***

CINDY BOOKER

Hands that Serve, Heart that Loves

Since joining St. Mark's in 1996, Cindy has been a steady and faithful presence in our church family. Many know her best for her warm smile, helping spirit, and her willingness to jump in wherever she's needed. Cindy has blessed our congregation for nearly three decades, and it's our joy to celebrate her in this month's Member Spotlight.

Cindy works closely with Pam in coordinating Memorial meals, a ministry that provides comfort during times of grief. For more than 20 years, she has helped ensure these meals are carried out with care and compassion—whether she's planning, preparing, or serving. Her efforts extend far beyond the kitchen—they remind families that they are surrounded by love and support during difficult seasons.

As part of the Nurture and Care Team, Cindy plays a vital role in making sure people feel connected and cared for within our congregation. She often steps up in the kitchen on short notice—ordering, assembling, and even handling cleanup with remarkable efficiency. Within hours, she can turn a need into a blessing.

Cindy's commitment to care is reflected not only in her service but also in her family life. She faithfully tends to her father, who is part of our St. Mark's family, showing the same devotion and love she extends to our church family. Her children grew up at St. Mark's, and though they now have families and lives of their own, the roots of faith they experienced here remain part of their story. Cindy's life is a beautiful picture of multigenerational love and faithfulness.



Above all, Cindy's dedication reflects a heart that truly lives out the call to serve others. From the kitchen to the Care Team and beyond, she embodies the joy of putting faith into action. We thank God for Cindy's presence, her gifts, and her years of love poured into this congregation.

♥ ***Cindy, your service has encouraged, comforted, and lifted up so many. We celebrate you and thank God for the joy and strength you bring to our congregation.***

***“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”
— 1 Thessalonians 5:11***

BIRTHDAYS!

HONORING OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Cheryl Klug (10/01); Jack Nguyen (10/03); Richard Shaw (70); Linda Thomas (10/03); Rich Turner (10/04); Gale Goodman (10/05); ***Roy Brown (10/09)**; Don Menke (10/09); Beth Zimmerman (10/13); Sue Mullen (10/15); Hugh Guynes (10/16); Don Ault (10/17); Larry Creach (10/17); Anne Hennen (10/20); Jenni Hensler (10/22); ***Eleanor McCollum (10/25) is 101 years old!**; Maxine Craig (10/30); John Smith (10/30); Shirley Howell (10/31)
**means they celebrated 90 (+) years of life!*

HONORING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bill Knau (11/01); Gunnar Marshall (11/01); Peggy Smith (11/02); ***Virginia Shaw (11/03)**; Gerri Anderson (11/04); Mary Begley (11/06); Mary Lou Knau (11/06); Katie Meyer (11/10); Pam Brockfield (11/12); Cliff Klug (11/17); Sue Combs (11/21); Steve Nguyen (11/22); John Prohaska (11/23); Sharon Hamp (11/25); Maria Mullen (11/25); Molly Robinson (11/25); Brenda Smoot (11/26); Elaine Shreve (11/28); Lynne Schumacker (11/29)
**means they celebrated 90 (+) years of life!*

PREPARE FOR DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Paul Schutte (12/02); Bob Mendenhall (12/06); Charlie Bryant (12/08); Cheryl Creach (12/08); Michele Leyrer (12/09); Kenzie Meyer (12/09); Matt Snyder (12/13); Ben Gallihugh (12/14); ***Flo Moore (12/14)**; Linda Prohaska (12/17); Pam Finrock (12/21); Marlis Hatton (12/24); Pat Sena (12/29); Ira Begley (12/30)
**means they celebrated 90 (+) years of life!*

GRATITUDE NOTES

There are not enough words to express the gratitude we feel for the love and support shown to us over the past several months. Your prayers, meals, cards, and kindness lifted us in ways you may never know. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for walking with us and surrounding our family with such care.

— The Bud & Shirley Aydlett



My heartfelt thanks to everyone! I am so grateful for the many texts, calls, birthday and get well cards, prayers, visits, conversations, transportation, and the meals that have supported me during this season. Each act of kindness has lifted my spirits as I continue to recover from my February 3 ankle and toe surgeries. Your love and care have meant more than words can say. — Belinda Peters

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY

Wade & Nancy Lewis	10/05	64 Years
Gil & Penny Dole	10/11	17 Years
Kyle & Alex Robinson	10/15	14 Years
Brian & Marla George	10/23	26 Years
John & Katie Meyer	10/23	15 Years

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY

Doug & Beth Ewald	11/06	49 Years
Don & Gretchen	11/12	37 Years
Bill & Mary Lou Knau	11/14	66 Years
Jerry & Betty Jones	11/21	36 Years

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

Bud & Shirley Aydlett	12/14	68 Years
David & Pam Brockfield	12/15	52 Years
Mark & Diana Gregory	12/15	24 Years
Marty & Gay Kubik	12/28	11 Years

NOTE: If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is incorrect, please contact the church office at 513.844.1818

GRATITUDE NOTES

Thank you so much for the birthday cards, calls, thoughts, and celebrations. Being honored at the 90(+) Birthday Party meant the world to me, and I will always treasure the love and kindness shown that day. It was such a joy to celebrate this milestone surrounded by my church family, and I am deeply grateful for the memories we created together. — Iris Jones

Thanks to my St. Mark's Church family for making my 94th birthday such a wonderful celebration! There are not enough words to express how much I appreciated everything you did to make the day so special. My heart is full, and I pray that God blesses each of you as richly as you have blessed me. — Lois Hill

"LOIS NEEDS YOUR HELP"

Please let me know if you are aware of anyone who is ill, grieving, or could simply use a card of encouragement. Sometimes I don't receive all the information, and I don't want anyone to miss the chance to feel the love and care of their church family. I would consider it an honor to hear from you. My phone is 513-863-1034. Email is 49seabiscuit@gmail.com. Blessings. —Lois Hill



4601 Fairfield Avenue
Fairfield, OH 45014

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

JULY—OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2025



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
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)