



ST. MARK'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 23, 2025 - 9:30AM



“James: Choose Your Friends Wisely”

Worship with us In-person

Live-Streaming on Facebook and YouTube at

www.facebook.com/fairfieldstmarks

and on our website at <https://www.fairfieldstmarks.com/live-stream/>

Welcome! We're so glad you're here!

To help us stay connected, please take a moment to complete the Attendance Pad located in each pew. Pass it along so others can do the same, and when it reaches the end, kindly return it to its place. As you do, take a moment to greet those around you!

Do you have a prayer request?

Prayer Cards can be found in the pew racks. If you would like your request shared during our prayer time, please complete a card and place it in the collection during the opening hymn.

A few helpful notes for worship today:

An (*) invites you to rise as you are able, in body and/or spirit. Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** and projected. Our ushers are here to assist you with any questions.

We are blessed to worship together today!

WELCOME/GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"

(The Faith We Sing, pg. 2036)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Happy are those who walk in God's ways.

Blessed are those who observe God's commandments.

Faithful are those whose eyes are fixed on righteousness.

Joyful are those whose hearts are filled with praise.

Come, let us love the Lord our God.

We come to worship the One who leads us in the ways of life. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: "Come Ye Thankful People Come" UMH 694**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Lord God, Maker of heaven and earth, we gather together in Your name. We come as living sacrifices, to offer You our worship and thanksgiving, our praise and our prayers. Come among us, living Lord. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and minds so that we may recognize Your presence, hear Your voice, know Your will, and walk in Your way. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT

Offertory: "Devotion"

Chancel Choir

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving

SPECIAL MUSIC: "As Long As I Have Breath"

HYMN: "We Gather Together"

UMH 131

SCRIPTURE: James 4:1-12

SERMON TITLE: "Choose Your Friends Wisely"

Pastor Mark

*CLOSING HYMN: "Now Thank We All Our God"

UMH 102

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG: "Take Jesus with You"

*POSTLUDE

Sue Combs

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys/Concerns: If updates are unknown, these items are listed for up to 4 weeks. Extended concerns are listed under “Continued Prayers.”

- 11/16 Shirley Aydtlett is having some shoulder issues.
- 11/16 Chris and Sue’s friend, Andy, is having abnormal tissue of the brain removed for testing.
- 11/16 Travel mercies for all of the families traveling this Thanksgiving.
- 11/16 Jenni Hensler’s aunt & uncle are dealing with several health issues.
- 11/16 Sue’s cousin, Donna, has a collapsed lung and is struggling to breathe
- 11/16 Anne Hennen is in rehab for a broken arm after having a fall in her driveway on 11/03.
- 11/09 We lift up Marlis in prayer as she continues her journey through medical issues. May she feel surrounded by God’s love, encouraged by hope, and comforted by the prayers of her church family.
- 11/09 Kaden Theiss having a hematology visit on November 13.
- 11/09 Prayers of Gratitude to God for saving my sister Linda Menninger Krause.
- 11/09 Our condolences to the family of Steve Wuest, who passed away on November 4, 2025. Please keep his loved ones in your prayers during this difficult time.
- 11/09 Bud and Shirley Aydtlett. Bud had a couple of falls since returning home—thankfully, nothing was broken, just a few bumps and bruises. Shirley also had a fall and was checked at the hospital with no broken bones. She will begin taking chemo pills along with a monthly shot.
- 11/02 Don Kemen as he goes through therapy at home.
- 10/26 Our hearts and prayers go out to the Becker Family in the passing of their beloved grandfather (Shane’s). May God’s comfort and peace surround them in the days ahead, and may the warmth of cherished memories bring strength and hope to their hearts.
- 10/26 Prayers for daughter & granddaughter going through some difficult times.
- 10/26 Please keep Debbie in your prayers as she awaits results from her recent MRI. May she feel God’s calming presence and receive good news that brings peace and relief.
- 10/19 Our granddaughter, Avery (14) is recovering from surgery on 10/20. Pray for her parents Larry & Johnnita and for pain relief for Avery.
- 10/19 Dwight Clendenin upcoming test results and for Karen Clendenin healing from a recent fall.
- 10/19 Paul Schutte in hospital and health concerns.
- 10/15 Don Ault is at Jamestown for rehab after his surgery and is working through some other medical issues.
- 10/15 Kathy Bradley’s brother-in-law passed away recently.
- 10/12 Lauren Dichtl’s friend who lost her grandmother.
- 10/12 Cliff Klug as he recovers from ablation for his A-fib that was 10/15/25.

Continued Prayers: Please help us keep this list current by emailing or calling the church office with updates, L.bucalo@fairfieldstmarks.com or call 513.844.1818.

For Pastor Mark and Diana Gregory
All service Men & Women
Our World, Nation, and Communities
First Responders
United Methodist Church
Prayer & Bible Study Groups
For the sick and/or homeless
Don Ault
Shirley & Bud Aydlett
Ann Brabbs
Arvilla Brinkmeyer
Helen Brown
Kathy Bradley
Patty Coyle

Sharon Hamp
Marlis Hatton
Iris Jones Family
Cliff Klug
Don Kemen
Mary Lou Knau
Tomie O'Sullivan
Belinda Peters
Lori Palmieri (P. Coyle's daughter)
Linda Prohaska
Brenda Smoot
Elaine Shreve
Parkside Residents
Ken Weedman

St. Mark's Homebound:

Janice Chaney
Freida Hawkins (Doverwood)
Bob Klingel (Westover)
Gale Logan—Otterbein Community
Nancy & Wade Lewis (Berkeley)
Flo Moore (Berkeley Square)
Eleanor McCollum

Pat Pitman (Alois Alzheimer Center)
Zedith Pottenger (Storypoint)
Jean Stivers
Virginia Shaw
Paul Schutte
Betty Stover (NY—HospiceCare)
Peggy Wyatt

ST. MARK'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

Check out our online calendar: fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar

TODAY, 11/23

- 9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreaming
GLOW, nursery open for infants—age 3
- 5:00 pm Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas

MONDAY, 11/24

- 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Group Study (Zoom)

TUESDAY, 11/25

WEDNESDAY, 11/26

- 7:30 am Men's Prayer & Support Group
- 2:00 pm Bible Study Group
- 6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice
- 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, 11/27 Happy Thanksgiving Day—(Offices Closed)

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

FRIDAY, 11/28 (Offices Closed)

SATURDAY, 11/29

SUNDAY, 11/30 First Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreaming
GLOW, nursery open for infants—age 3
- 5:00 pm Advent Celebration & Potluck Event

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVEMBER 23, TONIGHT, 5PM, DECORATE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS

We need hands to help us. Please consider joining us this year as we decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season! It's a wonderful opportunity to share in the holiday spirit together and we'd love your help. Contact Sue Luken for details or to volunteer. We will have pizza afterwards.

NOVEMBER 27-28, THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY—OFFICES CLOSED

NOVEMBER 30, SUNDAY, 5-7PM, ADVENT CELEBRATION & POTLUCK DINNER

Please join as we begin this season of Advent. A time of wonder and hope. Potluck dinner, (main dish and drinks provided) fun and fellowship at 5pm with a short program "*A Savior is Coming*" and prayer at the crèche following. Sign up sheet at Welcome Counter. Contact Peggy Smith.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 14, PARKSIDE GIVING TREE

The Parkside Giving Tree will be up and ready for you to select your name tags with recipient wish list by November 16 or 23. All wrapped gifts are due by December 14. Contact Jenni Hensler, Tari Randall, or Kym Nguyen for more details. .

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 28, SCROOGE THE MUSICAL at LACOMEDIA

We are thrilled to share that our very own Music Director, Chris Beiser, will be stepping into the spotlight as Ebenezer Scrooge in LaComedia Dinner Theatre's holiday production of "*Scrooge the Musical!*" This is a wonderful opportunity to see Chris showcase his talent on stage in a beloved Christmas classic. Call the theater box office at 1-800-677-9305 or (937) 746-4554 to reserve your seats for this holiday classic.

DECEMBER—NO LUNCH BUNCH THIS MONTH, RESUMES JANUARY 2026

DECEMBER 11, THURSDAY, 7:30PM, OHIO MILITARY BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT

Join us as St. Mark's welcomes the Ohio Military Band for an evening holiday concert. Mark Hensler has been the director of the group for 30+ years. Start off your holiday season with festive music we all love. Find out more about the band on their website at <https://ohiomilitaryband.com> or their Facebook page. (Free admission)

DECEMBER 15, MONDAY, TBD, LADIES BIBLE GROUP CHRISTMAS STUDY

DECEMBER 19, FRIDAY, 12-2:30PM, RUTH CIRCLE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON & GIFT

All ladies are invited to join this festive Luncheon and Gift Exchange filled with games, laughter, fellowship, and holiday cheer! Bring a wrapped gift (\$1-2 dollar value) to share in the gift exchange, and come enjoy good food and warm company as we celebrate the season together. Contact Pam Guynes.

DECEMBER 19, FRIDAY, 6:00PM, CYF CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 21, SUNDAY, 9:30AM, SMUMC CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The SMUMC Choir will present this year's Christmas Cantata, "Mary, Did You Know?" — a moving musical celebration of Christ's birth told through powerful song and heartfelt narration. Join us as we reflect on the wonder of that holy night and the miracle that changed the world forever.

DECEMBER 21, SUNDAY, UGLY SWEATER/COOKIE DIVA, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Cookie Diva: Bring your best to our Cookie Diva :Christmas Cookie Contest! Bake (2) dozen of your favorite, yummiest, or best recipe and leave them in the kitchen that morning with your name on the bottom of the plate. Our (3) judges will taste, deliberate, and decide your cookie fate. Who will claim 2025 titles? Join the fun and find out in Fellowship Hall! THEN...

Ugly Sweater: Who will have the ugliest sweater for 2025? If you have a most unfortunate sweater, wear it today so that we can judge (cough-cough) critique the look. Be ready to model it for the chance to be the Ugly Sweater Champ! Let Pastor Mark or Lyn Bucalo know you are competing.

DECEMBER 24, TUESDAY, 10:30PM, CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

WINTER SEASON—MINI FOOD PANTRY FOOD DONATIONS

With cooler months here, please keep the weather in mind when selecting food donations since some items can freeze if left outdoors. Consider choosing non-perishable, temperature-safe options such as canned meats, vegetables, and fruit; peanut butter and jelly; pasta, rice, or boxed dinners; cereal, oatmeal, or snack bars; soups, beans, crackers, and shelf-stable milk or juice. Every donation helps us care for families in need throughout the colder season — thank you for your continued generosity.

RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS—NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Worship In-Person Attendance: 108

Sunday School Attendance: 6

Weekly Budget Needs	\$6,091.62
Weekly In-Person Giving	\$8,283.00
Weekly On-Line Giving	\$ 837.93
	<u>\$9,120.93</u>

Special—Designated Giving*	\$ 310.00
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**Designated Giving can not be used for Budget Needs*

Altar Flowers:

1-In Memory of Norma Jean Cottrill, with love from her daughter Sue



NOVEMBER 23, SUNDAY, 5PM, HELP DECORATE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS

We had a great crew last year. Consider joining us this year as we decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season! It's a wonderful opportunity to share in the holiday spirit together, and we'd love your help. For more details contact: Sue Luken.



NOVEMBER 27-28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Offices will be closed.



NOVEMBER 30, SUNDAY, 5-7PM, ADVENT CELEBRATION & POTLUCK DINNER

Join our church family as we begin the season of Advent. We'll provide the main dish and drinks; please bring a dish to share. A program and crèche dedication will follow dinner. Contact Peggy Smith for more details and reservations.

WEEKLY GROUPS:

MONDAY's, 6:30PM, LADIES BIBLE GROUP STUDY (ZOOM & IN-PERSON 1st MON)

We have a new book entitled, "**An Unlikely Advent**" By: Rachel Billups. We will discuss via zoom on November 17 at 6:30pm and through the next 4 weeks. Contact: Kym Nguyen for more details.

WEDNESDAY's, 7:30AM, MEN's PRAYER & SUPPORT GROUP

This group is more than just a time of prayer—it's also a space for encouragement, support, and fellowship. Contact Jeff Gering for more information.

WEDNESDAY's, 2-3PM, BIBLE STUDY GROUP

We are reading in the book of Timothy with lots of discussions. Contact Sue McDaniel for more information.

WEDNESDAY's, MUSIC REHEARSALS:

Handbell Choir at 6:30pm, contact Sue Combs and then Chancel Choir at 7:30pm, contact Chris Beiser for more information.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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513.844.1818

www.Fairfieldstmarks.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

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