



ST. MARK'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 30, 2025 - 9:30AM



The Angels of Christmas: A Scary Christmas

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:

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

All creation holds its breath.

The time is almost here.

The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

Excitement is all around us.

Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form. Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our hope. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" UMH 212**

***OPENING PRAYER**

God, who are the Most High Lord of all, you have a surprising preference for people who are small and humble and who expect everything from you. You chose Mary, the unassuming virgin from Nazareth, to become the mother of your Son Jesus. Through your Holy Spirit make us aware of the poverty of our hearts, that we may be open to you and welcome you, be ready, like Mary, to serve you and your plans, and expect everything from you. Come to us and give yourself to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: The Luken Family

Reader One: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4)

All: Today we choose to live in hope, believing that time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.

Second Reader: We light the candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT
 Offertory
 Doxology
 Prayer of Thanksgiving

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Messiah, Heaven's Glory"
(Selection from the Cantata)

HYMN: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" UMH 196

SCRIPTURE: James 4:1-12

SERMON TITLE: "The Angels of Christmas: A Scary Christmas"
Pastor Mark

*CLOSING HYMN: "Angels From the Realm of Glory" UMH 220

*BENEDICTION

*CLOSING SONG: "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" UMH 204

*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.”

- 11/23 Joy and Congratulations to Chelsey Cavender, who married Rob Price on November 22. Many blessing to them!
- 11/23 JOY! Happy Birthday to John Prohaska.
- 11/23 Kym Nguyen in your prayers as she meets with her spine surgeon on (Monday)11/ 24. We are praying for clarity, a helpful plan of action, and relief from the severe pain she has been enduring these past several months.
- 11/23 The Goodman family, Gale’s father is in hospice.
- 11/23 Dwight & Karen Clendenin, both been sick lately and pray for Dwight to have good test results 11/25/25.
- 11/23 Children & Grandchildren going through extremely difficult times.
- 11/23 Robin Baker who had brain surgery and is waiting for results.
- 11/23 Ken Weedman is now at Doverwood. Prayers that his heart gets stronger.
- 11/23 Marlis has the flu and is waiting to go to rehab
- 11/16 Shirley Aydlett 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 at Majestic 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 Aydlett. 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.

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 (Doverwood)

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, 11/30 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

MONDAY, 12/01

- 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Group Study

TUESDAY, 12/02

WEDNESDAY, 12/03

- 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, 12/04

- 10:00 am Small Group Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 pm Ohio Military Band (Rehearsal)
- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

FRIDAY, 12/05

SATURDAY, 12/06

- 12:00 pm New Covenant (reserved Fellowship Hall until 5:30pm)

SUNDAY, 12/07 Holy Communion Sunday

- 9:30 am Holy Communion & Worship in sanctuary and livestreaming
No GLOW, nursery open for infants—age 3
- 2:00 pm New Covenant (reserved Fellowship Hall until 6pm)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Join us tonight as we begin Advent season with a 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 so we have an idea of how many to expect.
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. All wrapped gifts are due by December 14. Contact Jenni Hensler, Tari Randall, or Kym Nguyen for more details.

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. Bring a side dish to share, (*main dish provided*). Contact: Pam Guynes.

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

DECEMBER—NO LUNCH BUNCH THIS MONTH, RESUMES JANUARY 2026

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

DECEMBER—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.

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.

Altar Flowers:

*1-In Memory of Joyce Zugelter with love from Rich and our family.
1-In Memory of Jami Hamblin, remembered with love by the Hamblin
and Nguyen families on the 40th anniversary of her passing.*



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.

OHIO MILITARY BAND — DECEMBER 11, 7:30-8:45 PM

Get into the holiday spirit with Christmas songs and fun.
Free event for whole family.



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 on December 8 at 6:30pm and through the next 2 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 2nd 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

4601 Fairfield Ave., Fairfield, OH 45014

513.844.1818

www.Fairfieldstmarks.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.Facebook.com/fairfieldstmarks

facebook.com/groups/fairfieldstmarks

facebook.com/groups/stmarkschildrenfamily

WIFI: StMarks Guest—PW: HelloFairfield