



# ST. MARK'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**December 7, 2025 - 9:30AM**

**Holy Communion**



*The Angels of Christmas: A Scary Christmas*

Worship with us In-person

Live-Streaming on Facebook and YouTube at

[www.facebook.com/fairfieldstmarks](https://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: "Bring A Torch"

Handbells

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Keep awake!

**You know not when God comes.**

There will be signs:

**A flood to cover the earth,**

the Red Sea parting, the walls of Jericho tumbling,

**a giant slain by a boy,**

a barren womb birthing a son,

**a man sleeping in a den of lions,**

another surviving the belly of a fish,

**a virgin conceiving in her womb!**

Keep awake!

**God is coming!**

Behold the signs!

**Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" UMH 213**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**From places deeply rooted, we gather to light our advent candles. From the places yet undiscovered, we gather to sing our advent songs. From places still hidden in plain sight, we gather to read our advent texts. From places tangled with disappointment, we gather to share our advent prayers. Amen.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Handbells

## **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: The Fitzpatrick Family**

Reader One: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6)

**All: Today we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.**

Second Reader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring light to places the world seems to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT

Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

*(Selection from the Cantata)*

HYMN: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"

UMH 626

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:11-20

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

Pastor Mark

COMMUNION

\*CLOSING HYMN: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

UMH 218

\*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.”

- 12/04 We extend our sincerest sympathy to the family and friends of Gale Logan, who passed away on November 12, 2025. Please remember Gale’s loved ones in your prayers, that they may be surrounded by God’s comfort and peace in the days ahead.
- 11/30 Please keep the Goodman family close in prayer following the passing of Gale’s father. We lift them with heartfelt love, asking God to steady their hearts, strengthen their spirits, and surround them with the gentle assurance of His presence in the days ahead.
- 11/30 Please keep Pastor Mark in your prayers. He was in the ER due to kidney stones and is now recovering. Pray that he continues to heal quickly and that this does not interfere with his upcoming procedure.
- 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 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. We continue to 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.
- 11/16 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 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 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.

**Continued Prayers:** Please help us keep this list current by emailing or calling the church office with updates, [L.bucalo@fairfieldstmarks.com](mailto: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)  
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](http://fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar)**

### **TODAY, 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)

### **MONDAY, 12/08**

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

### **TUESDAY, 12/09**

### **WEDNESDAY, 12/10**

- 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, 12/11**

- 11:00 am Nurture & Care (Heritage Room)
- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous
- 7:30 pm Ohio Military Band Christmas Concert

### **FRIDAY, 12/12**

### **SATURDAY, 12/13**

### **SUNDAY, 12/14**

- 9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreaming  
GLOW, nursery open for infants—age 3
- 6:00 pm New Covenant Carol's Night (Sanctuary until 10pm)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 21, 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 21 (We extended deadline an extra week). 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, 5:30—9:00PM, CYF CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Join the fun on Friday for dinner and a visit to Weaver's Farm to see the lights and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate. There is NO COST. All of the Sunday school and youth are invited. Families are welcome, but not necessary. Sign up in the Narthex, or contact Sue Luken or Peggy Smith

### **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—NO LUNCH BUNCH THIS MONTH, RESUMES JANUARY 2026**

### **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.

### **A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

Merry Christmas! If you'd like to give a monetary gift to the Gregory's this season, a basket is available by the mailboxes. Please make checks payable to Mark Gregory (not St. Mark's). Thank you!

## **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.



## **RUTH CIRCLE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND GIFT EXCHANGE**

**DECEMBER 19, FRIDAY at 12:00-2:30PM**

Bring a dish to share and a wrapped (\$1-2.00) gift for white elephant. For more details & questions, contact Pam Guynes

## **CHURCH EVENT: COOKIE DIVA and UGLY SWEATER DECEMBER 21, SUNDAY @10:30AM**

Meet us in Fellowship Hall for all the laughs, cookies and see who is crowned this years Cookie Diva and who is wearing the Ugly Sweater Champ? Please sign up at counter. Contact Pastor Mark or Lyn Bucalo



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

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

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WIFI: StMarks Guest—PW: HelloFairfield