



# ST. MARK'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**December 14, 2025 - 9:30AM**



## *The Angels of Christmas: An Important Introduction"*

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:

Sue Combs

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come to share together to celebrate the God who is present amongst us.

**The Lord our God is our strength and song, and is even now our salvation.**

We come to share together to celebrate with all the world, that the Lord is God.

**With joy we gather around God's fountain of grace to be refreshed and renewed.**

We come to share together to celebrate with songs of praise and joy for the Lord our God's eternal presence is forever amongst and with us, and all peoples.

**We sing with joy: Thank the Lord, our Mighty God! Praise God's holy name! Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: "The First Noel"

UMH 245  
(vs. 1, 2, and 4)

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**In this Advent season we await the coming of Christ. Light of the World, come, come to the oppressed and exploited, come to the despised and rejected, come to all in whom the divine image is distorted.**

**We wait in joyful expectation. Come not as a man of power, but in love and compassion, come to the outcast – like the shepherds in the fields, come to foreigners – like Magi watching from afar, Come to rich and poor, young and old, male and female, we wait in hopeful anticipation.**

**Come to bless all creations with your love, come to bring salvation on the earth, come to rule with justice and in peace. Come Light of the World, illuminate our path. We wait with all the peoples of the earth, Light of the World, we welcome your coming. Amen.**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: The LaMar/Specht Family**

*Reader One:* In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to Make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved us, God is saving, and God will save. So today we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

**All: We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10)**

*Second Reader:* We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT

Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Is Your Heart Prepared for a King"

HYMN: "What Child is This"

UMH 219

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8-20

SERMON TITLE:

Pastor Mark

"The Angels of Christmas: An Important Introduction"

\*CLOSING HYMN: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

UMH 240

\*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."

- 12/11 Marlis is being moved to hospice in Hamilton at 1010 Eaton Ave.
- 12/05 JOY! We are grateful to share that Dwight Clendenin received positive and good news from his recent test results.
- 12/05 Don Ault in your prayers as he navigates ongoing health concerns. Your faithful prayers, support, and care mean so much.
- 12/05 Charlie Bryant's back gave out, leaving him very weak, and he is currently in the hospital. Pray for strength, comfort, and steady healing in the days ahead.
- 12/05 Marlis was admitted to the hospital again on Dec. 5 as she continues to battle the flu and ongoing medical issues. We lift her in prayer, asking that she feel God's love surrounding her, hope strengthening her, and the comfort of her church family holding her close.
- 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.
- 11/23 Joy and Congratulations to Chelsey Cavender, who married Rob Price on November 22. Many blessing to them!
- 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 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.
- 11/16 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 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.

**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 (Hospice)  
Iris Jones Family  
Cliff Klug  
Don Kernen  
Mary Lou Knau  
Kym Nguyen  
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, 12/14**

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)

### **MONDAY, 12/15**

5:30 pm Ladies Bible Group Study (In Person Christmas party)

### **TUESDAY, 12/16**

### **WEDNESDAY, 12/17**

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, 12/18**

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### **FRIDAY, 12/19**

12:00 pm Ruth Circle Christmas Luncheon & Gift Exchange

5:30 pm CYF Christmas Party at Weaver's Farm

### **SATURDAY, 12/20**

### **SUNDAY, 12/21 Christmas Cantata Sunday**

9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreaming  
GLOW, nursery open for infants—age 3

10:30 am Cookie Diva/Ugly Sweater Church Event (Fellowship Hall)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DECEMBER 15, MONDAY, 5:30PM, LADIES BIBLE GROUP CHRISTMAS STUDY**

Ladies be sure to bring a side dish to share. For information see Jenni Hensler.

### **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, PARKSIDE GIVING TREE DEADLINE**

The Parkside Giving Tree 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 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—NO LUNCH BUNCH THIS MONTH, RESUMES JANUARY 2026**

**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. SIGN UP AT WELCOME COUNTER.

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

**DECEMBER—SCROOGE THE MUSICAL at LACOMEDIA**

Last chance to see this wonderful musical! Our Music Director, Chris Beiser, is starring as Ebenezer Scrooge at LaComedia Dinner Theatre. Reserve your seats by calling the box office at 1-800-677-9305 or (937) 746-4554.

**2025 YEAR END GIVING SCHEDULE AND ENVELOPES UPDATE**

*The Last Sunday for gifts to be recognized in 2025 is Sunday, 12/28/25.*

*The Last Day for gifts to be received via mail is Tuesday, 12/30/25 @ 10am.*

*The Last Day for gifts to be received via electronic giving Wednesday, 12/31/25.*

**PICKING UP GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2026**

Like in years passed, we are not assigning new Giving Envelopes for everyone. We are recycling the envelope inventory that we already have. The dates and the account numbers on the envelopes have been blacked out. Please feel free to take a box for usage in 2026. The boxes will be available in the Narthex starting 12/14/25. If you have any questions, please see Penny Dole or Carol Gering.

**A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

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

**RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS—NOVEMBER 23, 2025**

Worship In-Person Attendance: 97

Sunday School Attendance: 5

Weekly Budget Needs	\$6,091.62
Weekly In-Person Giving	\$2,510.10
Weekly On-Line Giving	\$1,279.00
	<b><u>\$3,789.10</u></b>

Special—Designated Giving\* \$ 490.00

*\*Designated Giving can not be used for Budget Needs*

**RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS—NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

Worship In-Person Attendance: 83

Sunday School Attendance: 6

Weekly Budget Needs	\$6,091.62
Weekly In-Person Giving	\$3,293.00
Weekly On-Line Giving	\$ 692.89
	<b><u>\$3,985.89</u></b>

Special—Designated Giving\* \$ 100.00

*\*Designated Giving can not be used for Budget Needs*



## **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



SMUMC Giving Tree for Parkside

## **THE ANNUAL PARKSIDE GIVING TREE**

Please bring your wrapped gifts with labels attached in by December 21

Thank you for your generosity this season!

## **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**

[www.Facebook.com/fairfieldstmarks](http://www.Facebook.com/fairfieldstmarks)

[facebook.com/groups/fairfieldstmarks](https://facebook.com/groups/fairfieldstmarks)

[facebook.com/groups/stmarkschildrenfamily](https://facebook.com/groups/stmarkschildrenfamily)

WIFI: StMarks Guest—PW: HelloFairfield