



ST. MARK'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 21, 2025 - 9:30AM



Christmas Cantata: "Mary Did You Know?"

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:

Sue Combs

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alleluia the Christ child comes,

And we await his birth.

Let us throw off our distractions,

And allow the chaos to settle.

Let us watch for the signs,

And listen to the messengers.

Let us stand on tiptoe,

And shout aloud and sing.

Something new is emerging,

Something new is being birthed. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

UMH 238

***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 creation 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/Speccht Family

Reader One: Today we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgement.

Second Reader: We light the candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT

Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ST. MARK'S UMC CHRISTMAS CANTATA

"Mary Did You Know?"

By Russell Mauldin

Tidings of Great Joy Overture

Glory to the Newborn King Medley

Born to Save Us

Manger Throne Medley

One King

Who Would Imagine a King? - (*Penny Dole, Kelley Flaughter, and Heather Chambers*)

Mary Did You Know?

Jesus Messiah

Great Joy Medley

Narrators: Brooke Becker and Pam Brockfield

Orchestra:

Violin: Sherry Randall & Samantha Coning; Viola: Deborah Koehler;

Cello: Caitlyn McGlynn; Bass: Tim Cornelius; Flute: Kayla Goodman;

Horn: Andrew Osborn; Trumpet: Scott Seward & Steve Monroe

Percussion: Joe Klein

Director of Music: Chris Beiser

Accompanist/Asst. Director: Sue Combs; Sound: Rick Kiefer

*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."

- 12/18 Pastor Mark, as he moves through his treatment plan, praying for strength, healing, and peace in the weeks ahead.
- 12/17 With sadness, we share the passing of Betty Stover this past week. We extend our condolences and ask that you keep her family and loved ones in your prayers.
- 12/16 JOY! Congratulations to the Aydlett's on celebrating 68 years of marriage on December 21. We rejoice in this remarkable milestone and give thanks for their life together.
- 12/16 Don Stahl as he prepares for surgery to remove a kidney. We pray for comfort, strength, and healing.
- 12/16 Pam Brockfield as she undergoes neck surgery. May God grant her strength, peace, and healing.
- 12/16 Bud had a fall and is currently in the hospital with a wrist brace. He is expected to remain there for a few days and then move to rehab. Please keep Bud in your prayers as he recovers.
- 12/11 Marlis has been moved to Hospice in Hamilton at 1010 Eaton Ave.
- 12/11 Charlie Bryant is now home from the hospital. Please pray for continued healing.
- 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 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 11/24 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.
- 11/16 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 Kemen
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

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
Peggy Wyatt

ST. MARK'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

Check out our online calendar: fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar

TODAY, 12/21 Christmas Cantata Sunday

9:30 am Parkside Giving Tree Deadline to turn in gifts
Worship in sanctuary and livestreaming
GLOW, nursery open for infants—age 3

MONDAY, 12/22

TUESDAY, 12/23

WEDNESDAY, 12/24 Christmas Eve

10:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

THURSDAY, 12/25 Merry Christmas

Offices Closed

10:30 pm New Covenant Christmas Evening Service

FRIDAY, 12/26

Offices Closed

SATURDAY, 12/27

SUNDAY, 12/28

9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreaming
GLOW, nursery open for infants—age 3
10:30 am CYF Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 21, PARKSIDE GIVING TREE DEADLINE—TODAY

The Parkside Giving Tree wrapped gifts are due by December 21.

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

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. If you have any questions, please see Penny Dole or Carol Gering.

DECEMBER 24—JANUARY 5, OFFICES CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Church offices will be closed during the holiday season. However, we will continue to check text messages (daily) and emails (periodically). Wishing you a joyful and peaceful holiday season.

JANUARY 2026 MISSION: FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS

We will be collecting slightly used & new shoes and brand new (in package) undergarments. More details to come. Contact Jenni Hensler, Kym Nguyen, Tari Randall for more information.

JANUARY 13, TUESDAY, SHARED HARVEST 12:30-2:30PM
Sign up on Narthex bulletin board. Contact Debbie Bryant.

JANUARY 16, FRIDAY, RUTH CIRCLE 1:00-2:00PM
Tentative Guest Speaker. Contact Pam Guynes.

JANUARY 19, MONDAY, CYF ICE SKATING FUN, 1PM-5PM
More details coming soon. Contact Peggy Smith for information.

JANUARY 24, SATURDAY, MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES (TIME TBD)
Sign up on Narthex bulletin board. Contact Lynne Schumacker

JANUARY 27, TUESDAY, LUNCH BUNCH 12:00-2:00PM
More details coming soon.

FEBRUARY 28, LADIES FELLOWSHIP RETREAT, 10AM-2PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL
Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr Suzanne Allen will be the keynote speaker for our morning. Light morning snack and lunch provided. For details, please contact Peggy Smith or Sue Luken.



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—DECEMBER 7, 2025

Worship In-Person Attendance: 109

Sunday School Attendance:

Weekly Budget Needs	<u>\$6,554.12</u>
Weekly In-Person Giving	<u>\$3,723.00</u>
Weekly On-Line Giving	<u>\$1,636.33</u>
	<u>\$5,359.33</u>

Special—Designated Giving*	<u>\$1,155.00</u>
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**Designated Giving can not be used for Budget Needs*

THE ANNUAL PARKSIDE GIVING TREE

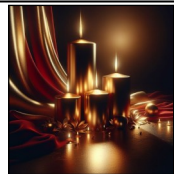
Please bring your wrapped gifts with labels attached
in by December 21

Thank you for your generosity this season!



SMUMC'S CANDLELIGHT SERVICE DECEMBER 24 at 10:30PM

Join us for our Beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service as
we celebrate the birth of Christ with scripture, carols,
and the lighting of candles. All are welcome.



2026 WEEKLY GROUPS:

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

We have a new book and will resume our discussions on Monday, January 12, 2026, meeting in person and sharing a meal at 6:00 p.m. Contact Kym Nguyen for more details.

WEDNESDAY's, 7:30AM, MEN's PRAYER & SUPPORT GROUP (RESUMES JAN. 7)

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 (RESUMES JANUARY 7)

We are reading in the book of 2nd Timothy with lots of discussions. Contact Sue McDaniel for more information.

WEDNESDAY's, MUSIC REHEARSALS: (RESUMES JANUARY 7)

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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WIFI: StMarks Guest—PW: HelloFairfield