



ST. MARK'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 28, 2025 - 9:30AM



"An Edgy 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: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Handbells

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Gracious God, hear our songs.

Gather us in as one people, that we may worship you as one body. Heal our broken hearts and bind up our wound that we may come into your presence healthy and whole.

As we seek your wisdom.

Help us to discern your greatness as we honor the power and glory of your love. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: "What Child is This?"**

UMH 219

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem, where the Light of the world is humbly born into the darkness of human night. Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world, so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice, and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "The Angel Song"

Handbells

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT

Offertory

Doxology

CHRISTMAS CAROL HYMN SING

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:13-23

SERMON TITLE: "*An Edgy Christmas*"

Pastor Mark

*CLOSING HYMN: "The First Noel"

UMH 245

*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.”

- 12/22 We lift in prayer the family, friends, and loved ones of **Marlis Hatton**, who passed away peacefully and surrounded by her family on December 22. We give thanks for her life, her faithful witness, and the many ways she blessed our church family. May God’s comforting presence surround all who mourn, and may Marlis rest in eternal peace. **Memorial Services at SMUMC on December 27th: Visitation 8:30-10:30AM and Funeral service 10:30-11:30AM**
- 12/21 Tari Randall’s brother-in-law Jim, who had a stroke. Also Tari’s neighbor Tom, who is having open heart surgery.
- 12/21 Paul Schutte, for God’s guidance and love to help him through the holiday season.
- 12/21 Rick Kiefer’s wife Janis as she is recovering from recent surgery.
- 12/21 Sympathies and condolences for Dale Hanson’s family & friends. Dale passed away this past week.
- 12/21 Gerri Anderson’s friend, Carol Fischer and her family, her brother was killed by a drunk driver on Friday, 12/19/25.
- 12/21 Bud Aydlett is now back in Doverwood for rehab for his last fall.
- 12/21 Thank You ALL, so very much for the prayers, text messages, and concern you have shown me. My surgery is scheduled for Jan 15th.
- 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. **Memorial service at SMUMC on January 5th: Visitation at 2pm and Funeral service at 3pm.**
- 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 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 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.
- 12/04 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.
- 11/23 Joy and Congratulations to Chelsey Cavender, who married Rob Price on November 22. Many blessing to them!
- 11/23 Children & Grandchildren going through extremely difficult times.

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.

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 Aydtlett
Ann Brabbs
Arvilla Brinkmeyer
Helen Brown
Kathy Bradley
Patty Coyle
Sharon Hamp

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, 12/28

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

MONDAY, 12/29

TUESDAY, 12/30

WEDNESDAY, 12/31 New Year's Eve

8:00 pm New Covenant Watch Night (Sanctuary until 11:30pm)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026 HAPPY NEW YEAR

Offices Closed

FRIDAY, 01/02

Offices Closed

SATURDAY, 01/03

SUNDAY, 1/04 Holy Communion & Worship Service

9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreaming
NO GLOW, nursery open for infants—age 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

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 17, SATURDAY, HEALING CENTER TRAINING DAY, (TIME TBD)

More details coming soon. Contact Cindy Miller.

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 8, SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY COLLECTION

We will be collecting Dollar Tree Dinners and give to Fairfield Food Pantry as well as our SMUMC Little Pantry. More details to come. Contact Tari Randall, Kym Nguyen, Jenni Hensler.

FEBRUARY 13, FRIDAY, SERVE CITY 5:00-7:00PM

We will be serving the residents at Serve City. The theme is Big Easy Cajun Meals. Please sign up at the Narthex bulletin board. Contact Lyn Bucalo, Jenni Hensler or Tari Randall

FEBRUARY 17, TUESDAY, SHROVE PANCAKE SUPPER 5:00-7:00PM

Join us as we fellowship and fun as we ready ourselves for the solemn season of Lent. Pancakes with all the toppings, Sausage, Fresh Fruit, Milk, Coffee, Tea, and Juice. DINE IN or Carry Out. Sign up so that we can plan accordingly. Contact Peggy Smith or Sue Luken.

FEBRUARY 18, WHAT's ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT ALL ABOUT (Children's Ministry)

Contact Peggy Smith.

FEBRUARY 18, ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:00PM

FEBRUARY 28, LADIES FELLOWSHIP RETREAT, 10AM-2PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

On Saturday, our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr Suzanne Allen will be the keynote speaker for our morning retreat. 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 21, 2025

Worship In-Person Attendance: 179
Sunday School Attendance: 4

Weekly Budget Needs	\$6,554.12
Weekly In-Person Giving	\$15,718.00
Weekly On-Line Giving	\$3,117.33
	<u>\$18,835.33</u>

Special—Designated Giving*	<u>\$8,632.00</u>
----------------------------	--------------------------

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



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

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/stmarkschilrenfamily

WIFI: StMarks Guest—PW: HelloFairfield