

The logo features a stylized red flame or leaf shape to the left of a black cross.

# ST. MARK'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**January 4, 2026 - 9:30AM**

**Holy Communion**



**“Family...”**

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**

God of the prophets, call to us today.

**Call us into Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.**

God of the poets, remind us again how much You love us.

**Sing to us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.**

God of the disciples, teach us how to follow You.

**Teach us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.**

God of all creation, help us to know Your ways.

***We gather to hear Your call, to sing Your praise, to teach each other, to pray and worship as the Body of Christ.***

**\*OPENING HYMN: "We Three Kings"**

UMH 254

**\*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.**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING MOMENT

Offertory

Doxology

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:4-7

SERMON TITLE: "Family..."

Pastor Mark

COMMUNION

\*CLOSING HYMN: "Joy to the World"

UMH 246

\*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.”

- 01/04 With sadness, we share the passing of **Betty Stover on 12/17/25.** 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 Memorial service at 3pm.**
- 01/04 Pastor Mark as he begins a series of treatments on January 8 and continues into the following week. May he move through this time with strength, healing, and a swift return to full health.
- 12/28 Kym Nguyen for upcoming back surgery scheduled for January 15.
- 12/28 Matt Snyder's dad who is recovering from open heart surgery.
- 12/22 We lift the family, friends, and loved ones of Marlis Hatton, who passed away peacefully and surrounded by her family on 12/22/25. 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.
- 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.
- 12/16 Don Stahl as he prepares for surgery to remove a kidney. We pray for comfort, strength, and healing.
- 12/11 Charlie Bryant is now home from the hospital. Please pray for continued healing.
- 12/05 Don Ault in your prayers as he navigates ongoing health concerns. Your faithful prayers, support, and care mean so much.

**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

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](http://fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar)**

### **TODAY, 01/04 Holy Communion & Worship Service**

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

### **MONDAY, 01/05**

2:00 pm Betty Stover's Visitation  
3:00 pm Betty Stover's Memorial Service

### **TUESDAY, 01/06**

### **WEDNESDAY, 01/07**

7:30 am Men's Prayer & Support Group  
2:00 pm Bible Study Group  
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, 01/08**

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### **FRIDAY, 01/09**

### **SATURDAY, 01/10**

### **SUNDAY, 01/11**

9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreaming  
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.

### **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**

We will have a Special presentation and 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 20, TUESDAY, LUNCH BUNCH 12:00-2:00PM**

We will meet at LaRosa's located at 5130 Camelot Drive (Fairfield). Reserve your seat with Sue Beckett by January 18, Sunday.

### **JANUARY 24, SATURDAY, MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES (TIME TBD)**

Sign up on Narthex bulletin board. Contact Lynne Schumacker

**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.

**RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS—DECEMBER 28, 2025**

Worship In-Person Attendance:  
Sunday School Attendance:

Weekly Budget Needs	<u>\$6,554.12</u>
Weekly In-Person Giving	<u>\$2,541.00</u>
Weekly On-Line Giving	<u>\$ 794.27</u>
	<b><u>\$3,335.27</u></b>
Special—Designated Giving*	<u>\$2,055.00</u>

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

## **JANUARY 2026 MISSIONS: FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOL**

We will be collecting slightly used & new shoes and brand new (in package) undergarments or please consider making a monetary donation.  
Contact Jenni Hensler or Tari Randall if you have questions or would like to make a donation.



### **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](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/stmarkschilrenfamily](https://facebook.com/groups/stmarkschilrenfamily)

WIFI: StMarks Guest—PW: HelloFairfield