



**ST. MARK'S**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**February 22, 2026 - 9:30AM**



## "THE GIFT OF THE CROSS"

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: "Jesus, Name Above All Names"  
(*The Faith We Sing, Pg 2071*)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

The dust that shapes the journey,  
**the cross that guides it,**  
the color that surrounds it,  
**the light that fades through it,**  
the word that foretells it,  
**the wilderness that invites it.**

This is Lent, and into its wilderness God calls us.

**Come, brothers and sisters, Christ is heading for  
Jerusalem. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"      UMH 297

\*OPENING PRAYER

**All-knowing and all-caring God, we gather this day  
drained by another week. We are like a parched desert,  
empty and in need of replenishment. Visit us with your  
presence, saturate us with your Spirit, and bathe us in  
your streams of living water, that our lives might  
acknowledge and worship you to the praise and honor of  
Jesus Christ. 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

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Power to Redeem"

HYMN: "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" UMH 301

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:11  
SERMON TITLE: "The Way of the Cross" Pastor Mark

\*CLOSING HYMN: "O, How I Love Jesus" UMH 170

\*BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING SONG:  
"There's Something About that Name" UMH 171

\*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.”

- 02/18 Edith Davis has been released from rehab and has returned home to Story Point. Please continue prayers for healing.
- 02/15 With caring hearts, we lovingly lift up Ruth Ritenbaugh in prayer following the passing of her sister, Sandy. May she be held close in God’s love, and may God grant her strength for each day while surrounding her with abiding love.
- 02/15 We ask you to hold Fran Frazee and her family in prayer as she enters hospice care. May she be wrapped in God’s peace and upheld by love and gentle care.
- 02/15 Becky Hamblin’s friend Bev, who is having health issues.
- 02/15 As we lovingly remember Freida Hawkins, we ask that you keep her family and friends in your prayers, trusting that God’s grace and peace will sustain them and surround them with comfort, strength, and quiet assurance in the days ahead.
- 02/11 We share the news that Debbie Hale-White’s mother passed away on February 10. We extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy to Debbie and her family during this time of loss. May they be gently upheld in God’s abiding love and strengthened by the care and prayers of those around them.
- 02/08 Rick Kiefer’s wife, Janis, transitions to in home hospice care.
- 02/08 Jenni Hensler’s cousin, Kayren, who is in the hospital.
- 02/04 Don and Cheryl Kemen’s mother, Billy, who was 104 years old passed away on February 4. May her family and friends be surrounded with comfort and peace, and we ask that you keep them in your prayers.
- 02/01 Shirley Grant is currently facing breast cancer and surgery is not an option at this time. Currently, she will be undergoing further testing to determine the next steps for treatment. Please keep her in your prayers.
- 02/01 Don Ault treated for colon cancer & heart issues and currently dealing with CDIFF.
- 01/24 Iris Jones is working through eye issues.

**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 Aydlett  
Ann Brabbs  
Arvilla Brinkmeyer  
Helen Brown  
Kathy Bradley  
Patty Coyle  
Shirley Grant  
Sharon Hamp  
Lois Hill  
Anne Hennen

Iris Jones & Family  
Cliff Klug  
Don Kemen  
Janice Kiefer  
Mary Lou Knau  
Kym Nguyen  
Tomie O'Sullivan  
Belinda Peters  
Lori Palmieri (P. Coyle's daughter)  
Linda Prohaska  
Brenda Smoot  
Elaine Shreve  
Ken Weedman  
Parkside Residents

**St. Mark's Homebound:**

Janice Chaney  
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, 02/22**

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

### **MONDAY, 02/23**

10:00am Crafters Group  
6:30 pm Ladies Group Study (Zoom)

### **TUESDAY, 02/24**

12:00 pm Lunch Bunch

### **WEDNESDAY, 02/25**

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, 02/26**

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### **FRIDAY, 02/27**

### **SATURDAY, 02/28**

### **SUNDAY, 03/01 Communion Sunday**

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FEBRUARY 24, TUESDAY, LUNCH BUNCH 12:00-2:00PM**

Join us at the Shooters in Hamilton, 877 NW Washington Blvd, 45013. Enjoy a friendly time of food, conversation, and fellowship where everyone is welcome! Reserve your seat by February 22 and for more information contact Sue Beckett.

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

On Saturday, our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen, will serve as the keynote speaker for our morning retreat. As part of this special day together, we will be filling purses for a ministry outreach. We are inviting the women of our church and the congregation as a whole, to donate gently used purses or tote bags. There is no need to purchase new ones; we simply ask that they be clean and in good condition. We are also collecting items to fill the purses. Donations are welcome from the entire congregation in the following categories and turn in by February 22:

- General bathing, grooming, and dental products
- A variety of hair care products (considering all hair types)
- Feminine hygiene products

The cost to attend the retreat is just \$10 per person, which includes continental breakfast, lunch, beverages, and dessert. Sign up at the welcome center and for more information, please contact Sue Luken.

### **MARCH 13, FRIDAY, LASAGNA LOVE, 12:00-5:00PM**

More details coming, contact Cindy Miller .

**MARCH 15, UMCOR SUNDAY**

This special offering supports the administrative costs of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), allowing 100% of designated gifts to go directly to disaster response, humanitarian aid, and global ministries of hope. Thank you for your generous support as we join together to serve those in need around the world.

**MARCH 20, RUTH CIRCLE, 1:00-2:30PM**

Contact Pam Guynes

**MARCH 21, SATURDAY, MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES 9:00-11:00AM**

Sign up at the Narthex bulletin board, contact Lynne Schumacker

**MARCH 28, SATURDAY, ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT, 2:00-4:00PM**

Details coming soon, contact: Peggy Smith

**EXTENDED THRU FEB. SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY COLLECTION (MEAL IN A BAG)**

We will be collecting items for our “Meal in a Bag” project to support the Fairfield Food Pantry and the SMUMC Little Pantry. You’ll find an example Meal in a Bag kit and recipe ideas displayed at the Welcome Counter to guide your shopping. Simply choose a recipe and purchase the canned or boxed ingredients needed to complete the meal. Please contact Tari Randall, Kym Nguyen, or Jenni Hensler for more information and questions.

**EXTENDED THRU FEBRUARY 2026 MISSION: FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS**

We are collecting slightly used & new shoes and brand new (in package) undergarments. *Most needed shoe sizes are: (Sizes 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 for girls or boys). Mostly needed new undergarments are: Children’s 4T, 5-6, 7-8, and 10-12 girls or boys. **We can also do the shopping for you if you would like to donate money or a gift card.*** Thank you for supporting the students at Fairfield City Schools. Contact: Jenni Hensler and Tari Randall for more information.

**RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS—FEBRUARY 8, 2026**

Worship In-Person Attendance: 93

Sunday School Attendance: 2

Weekly Budget Needs	<u>\$6,554.12</u>
Weekly In-Person Giving	<u>\$3,065.00</u>
Weekly On-Line Giving	<u>\$1,642.47</u>
	<b><u>\$4,707.47</u></b>

Special—Designated Giving\*

\$395.00

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



## Happy Birthday Cindy!

Today's altar flowers are in birthday celebration for Cindy Booker.



## Ladies Fellowship Retreat

Saturday, February 28  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Fellowship Hall

### Keynote Speaker

Rev. Dr. Suzanne Allen  
District Superintendent



### Faith in Action: Purse Outreach

Donate gently used purses & personal care items  
Turn in by February 22

\$10 per person  
Includes breakfast & lunch

Sign up at the Welcome Center  
Contact Sue Laken



### **2026 WEEKLY GROUPS:**

#### **MONDAYS, 6:30PM, LADIES BIBLE GROUP STUDY (ZOOM & IN-PERSON 1st MON)**

We will start a new book in a couple weeks titled: *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, by Joanna Weaver. Discussions on Mondays via Zoom. **Our next in-person meeting will be on March 2, with a shared meal at 5:30 pm.** Contact Kym Nguyen for more details.

#### **WEDNESDAYS, 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.

#### **WEDNESDAYS, 2-3PM, BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

We are reading and discussing the book of Hebrews. Contact Sue McDaniel for more information.

#### **WEDNESDAYS, 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