



ST. MARK'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 15, 2024 - 9:30AM

"Cantata Sunday"



**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 are glad you are here!

Please complete the Attendance Pad located in each pew.

Pass it to the next person. When the last person completes it, return the pad to its original place, looking at the names of persons in your pew.

Greet one another at the conclusion of our worship!

Have a prayer request?

Prayer Cards are located in the pew racks. Completed prayer cards will be collected during the opening hymn and shared during our prayer time.

*An * invites you to rise as you are able, in body and/or spirit. Congregation responses are in **Bold print** and projected.*

WELCOME/GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Sue Combs

HYMN

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

UMH 204

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Keep awake!

You know not when God comes.

There will be signs:

A flood to cover the earth, the Red Sea parting, the walls of Jericho tumbling, a giant slain by a boy, a barren womb birthing a son, a man sleeping in a den of lions, another surviving the belly of a fish, and a virgin conceiving in her womb!

Keep awake!

God is coming! Behold the signs! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

UMH 224

"Good Christian Men Rejoice"

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of Surprising Generosity and Unexpected Grace, We have come to witness a miracle; to prepare our hearts for a new invasion of Your Light; We have come once again to open our souls and our lives to the divine birth. And in this sacred moment we ask for Your gentle Presence to captivate and challenge us. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

Confirmation Class: Owen Becker, Lauren Leyrer, and Kayden Theiss

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys/Concerns

If updates are unknown, these items are listed for up to 4 weeks. Extended concerns are listed under "Continuing Prayers."

- 12/10 Betty Winkler passed away on December 8 in Valdosta, GA. The memorial service is at Weigel Funeral Home (Hamilton) on December 16, Monday 9AM-Visitation. Pastor Mark will officiate the funeral service at 10AM. The burial is at Greenwood Cemetery. We send our prayers of peace, love, and condolences to the family and friends of Betty.
- 12/08 Please lift Marlis Hatton in your prayers as she begins her treatment journey, asking for strength, healing, and comfort during this time.
- 12/08 Linda Thomas' granddaughter, Kayla Carr. There is another lesion that has developed on her brain.
- 12/08 Jennie Marshall's cousin Lexie Goble, 16 yr old with ovarian cancer and all the tests, surgery, and bloodwork to come.
- 12/08 Cliff Klug's procedure on December 10 for good results.
- 12/08 Jenni Hensler's cousin, Alan who is having a brain tumor removed this week.
- 12/08 Pray for world peace and for the people of Syria.
- 12/08 Shirley Aydlett recovering & healing from knee surgery that was on December 3. She is doing well.
- 12/01 Pastor Mark & Diana's daughter, Emily Walls is recovering and getting better every day but is still having some pain.
- 12/01 Belinda Peters thanks everyone for good recoveries from surgeries.
- 12/01 Pam Brockfield's cousin, Jeff Renner. His cancer has metastasized.
- 12/01 Tonya Leguina's father, Sam Davis, is healing from cataract surgery on his left eye on 12/02.
- 12/01 Cindy Ditmyer's grandson, Lane.
- 12/01 Tomie's friends, brother in law, Butch Wheeler, brain cancer
- 11/24 Prayers for Tomie O'Sullivan's procedure.
- 11/24 Patty Coyle's brother-in-law, Jerry Sang, diagnosed with cancer of the tongue.
- 11/24 Iris Jones' daughter, Kathy Beltz will have surgery on November 27.
- 11/17 Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Dick Davis, who passed away on 11/16/24. May God's comfort and peace surround you during this time of loss, and may cherished memories bring you strength and solace.
- 11/17 My granddaughter, Abby, who is fighting an illness & near the fires in California.
- 11/17 Bill & Ana Brockfield on the death of their 26 yr old son, Christopher who was hit by a car while riding his bicycle. He is David's great nephew.
- 11/17 Tari Randall's family; her sister-in-law has passed away and we send our hearts and prayers to the family and friends.
- 11/10 Scott Taylor was in a motorcycle accident.

- 11/10 Continued prayers for the Klingel's.
- 11/10 Prayers for my daughters.
- 11/10 Danny Thomas fell and hurt his replacement shoulder and leg. He will have a MRI.
- 11/10 Carol Walker, Melinda Gross' mother. She is in Christ Hospital with heart issues.

Continuing Prayers

Please help us keep this list current by emailing or calling the church office with updates. Contact Lyn at L.bucalo@fairfieldstmarks.com or call the office (513) 844-1818.

For Pastor Mark and Diana Gregory
 All service Men & Women
 Our Country
 First Responders
 United Methodist Church
 Prayer & Bible Study Groups
 For the sick and/or homeless
 Don Ault
 Shirley Aydlett
 Ann Brabbs
 Kathy Bradley
 Patty Coyle

Sharon Hamp
 Marlis Hatton
 Judy & Bob Klingel
 Cliff Klug
 Wade Lewis
 Lori Palmieri (P. Coyle's daughter)
 Linda Prohaska
 Kathy Beltz (Iris daughter)
 Brenda Smoot (healing)
 Debbie Vitale (healing)
 Parkside Residents

St. Mark's Homebound:

Freida Hawkins
 Gale Logan—Otterbein Community
 Nancy & Wade Lewis
 Flo Moore (Berkeley Square)
 Eleanor McCollum
 Charlene Miller (Berkeley Square)

Zediith Pottenger
 Jean Stivers
 Virginia Shaw
 Paul Schutte
 Betty Stover (NY in home hospice)
 Betty Winkler (Lives in GA 6/30/24)

ST. MARK'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

Check out our online calendar: fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar

TODAY, 12/15 Christmas Cantata/Cookie Diva/Ugly Sweater

- 9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreaming
GLOW, Preschool—5th grade, nursery open for infants—age 3
- 10:30 am Cookie Diva and Ugly Sweater Contests (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:30 am New Covenant Church Worship in sanctuary

MONDAY, 12/16

- January Newsletter Submission deadline
- 10:00 am Ladies Craft Group (Craft Room)
- 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study (Zoom)

TUESDAY, 12/17

WEDNESDAY, 12/18

- 7:30 am Men's Prayer Group (Prayer Room)
- 2:00 pm Bible Study Group (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, 12/19

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

FRIDAY, 12/20

- 12:00 pm Ruth Circle Christmas Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

SATURDAY, 12/21

- 1:00 pm Senior Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 pm New Covenant Choir Practice (Choir Room)

SUNDAY, 12/22

- 9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreaming
GLOW, Preschool—5th grade, nursery open for infants—age 3
- 7:00 pm New Covenant CAROL'S NIGHT Church Worship in sanctuary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER MISSION: PARKSIDE GIVING TREE DEADLINE IS TODAY 12/15/24

The Parkside Giving Tree—**All wrapped gifts are due by December 15**; for questions, contact Jenni Hensler.

DECEMBER 15, SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS CANTATA "ONE INCREDIBLE MOMENT"

We are thrilled to present One Incredible Moment, a heartwarming cantata celebrating the night Christ was born. Featuring narration drawn directly from Max Lucado's inspiring book and the tender melodies blended with timeless carols, this unforgettable presentation will fill your heart with joy this Christmas season. Don't miss this celebration of Christ's birth like no other!

DECEMBER 15, SUNDAY, UGLY SWEATER/COOKIE DIVA, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Cookie Diva: Apron up for 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 the title? Join the fun and find out in Fellowship Hall! THEN...

Ugly Sweater: Who will have the ugliest sweater for 2024? 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.

DECEMBER 20 , FRIDAY, 12PM, RUTH CIRCLE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

All ladies are warmly invited to our Christmas Luncheon and Gift Exchange! Bring a wrapped gift valued at \$1.25 to join in the fun during our lively gift exchange game. We also ask that you bring a covered dish or dessert to share. Let's come together to celebrate the season and our sisterhood with delicious food, laughter, and fellowship. We would love to see you there Join us for our Ruth Circle Christmas Luncheon! Bring a small white elephant gift (around \$1) and a covered dish to share. For more details, contact Pam Guynes.

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

DECEMBER 25, HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Offices are closed.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES SCHEDULE: (December 29 at 6:00PM)

Sundays at 9:30am—1/12, 2/09, and 3/09. Sundays at 6:00pm—12/29, 1/26, 2/23, and March 23. Students are confirmed on Easter. If you can help us with providing a dinner on: 12/29; 1/26; 2/23; and March 23, it's greatly appreciated. For more info contact Peggy.

JANUARY 1, 2025 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Offices are closed.

JANUARY MISSIONS: SHOE DRIVE

More details coming soon. We are still taking coats, scarves, hats, gloves, and socks too. Just place them in the Narthex bins. Contact Tari Randall

JANUARY 5, SUNDAY, 5-7PM, FOLLOW THAT STAR FAMILY EVENT

Embark on a celestial quest to follow the legendary Christmas Star at St. Mark's UMC! Join us for an unforgettable Epiphany Party filled with adventure, joy, and wonder. This FREE indoor/outdoor event kicks off with a delicious complimentary dinner, followed by a magical glow-in-the-dark star hunt for children. Trade your stars for prizes and candy at the Star Store. We will hear the inspiring story of the Christmas Star that brings the season to life. Bring your family and friends—we can't wait to celebrate with you! For more information, contact Peggy Smith.

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS BLESSING

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

Thank you!

RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS—DECEMBER 8, 2024

Worship In-Person Attendance: 120
Sunday School Attendance: 13

Weekly Budget Needs	<u>\$5,320.40</u>
Weekly In-Person Giving	\$4,002.00
Weekly On-Line Giving	<u>\$1,468.16</u>
	<u>\$5,470.16</u>
Special—Designated Giving*	<u>\$2,595.00</u>
<i>*Designated Giving can not be used for Budget Needs</i>	

**CHURCH EVENT: COOKIE DIVA and UGLY SWEATER
DECEMBER 15, SUNDAY @10:30AM**

Who will claim the title of Cookie Diva and who will be the next Ugly Sweater Star Champ? Contact Pastor Mark or Lyn Bucalo



**RUTH CIRCLE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
DECEMBER 20, FRIDAY @12-2:30PM**

All ladies are welcome to join us for this fun and festive Christmas Luncheon! Contact Pam Guynes



**CHURCH EVENT: FOLLOW THAT STAR FAMILY EVENT
JANUARY 5, SUNDAY @5-7PM**

It's a celestial quest to find the legendary Christmas Star.
Contact Peggy Smith



WEEKLY GROUPS:

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

This group is open to all women, at any time, as we unpack each chapter for spiritual growth and meaningful discussions. PLEASE NOTE: We will skip January 6 meeting. Contact : Kym Nguyen.

WEDNESDAY's, 7:30AM, MEN's PRAYER GROUP

Join us in the prayer room each week. Contact : Jeff Gering

WEDNESDAY's, 2-3PM, BIBLE STUDY GROUP

We have finished Romans and are working our way through Corinthians. There is no reading required ahead of time and attendance is not taken. Just come when you can. All are welcome. Contact Sue McDaniel.

WEDNESDAY's, MUSIC REHEARSALS:

Bell Choir at 6:30pm, contact Sue Combs for more information. *Chancel Choir* at 7:30pm, contact Chris Beiser for more information. ALL are welcome to come at any time!

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