



# ST. MARK'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 22, 2024 - 9:30AM

**"FINDING JOY"**



**Worship with us In-person**  
**Live-Streaming on Facebook and YouTube at**  
**[www.facebook.com/fairfieldstmarks](http://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 SONG

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

UMH 204

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us prepare our hearts

**as we await the coming of our Lord,**

Let us watch for the one who heard our cries

**and shouldered the suffering of our world,**

Let us anticipate the coming of Christ's eternal world

**with wholeness, reconciliation and plenty for all.**

Let us wait in expectation for the day

**when God's glory is revealed in all its fullness. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN

"What Child is This"

UMH 219

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Advent God, we journey with you, to Bethlehem's stable  
and a new-born King, ears attuned to the song of angels,  
eyes alert for Bethlehem's star.**

**Forgive us if on our journey, we are distracted by the  
tempting offers of this world. Keep our hearts aflame  
with the hope of Christmas, and the promise of a  
Saviour. Amen.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**



# 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."*

- 12/20 For the Klingels as they transition into a new home.
- 12/20 Tomie O'Sullivan healing from surgery
- 12/20 Aydlett's continued prayers.
- 12/20 Marlis Hatton as she continues her treatment journey. We pray for strength, healing and comfort during this time.
- 12/15 Belinda Peters' fiancé' who is having back surgery Dec. 20.
- 12/10 Betty Winkler passed away on December 8 in Valdosta, GA. We send our prayers of peace, love, and condolences to the family and friends of Betty.
- 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 recovering from 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.

## **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](mailto: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)  
Parkside Residents

### **St. Mark's Homebound:**

Freida Hawkins  
Gale Logan—Otterbein Community  
Nancy & Wade Lewis  
Bob & Judy Klingel (Westover)  
Flo Moore (Berkeley Square)  
Eleanor McCollum

Charlene Miller (Berkeley Square)  
Zedith Pottenger  
Jean Stivers  
Virginia Shaw  
Paul Schutte  
Betty Stover (NY in home hospice)

## ST. MARK'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

**Check out our online calendar: [fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar](https://fairfieldstmarks.com/calendar)**  
**TODAY, 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

### **MONDAY, 12/23**

- January Newsletter Submission extended deadline  
10:00 am Ladies Craft Group (Craft Room)

### **TUESDAY, 12/24**

**10:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

### **WEDNESDAY, 12/25 Christmas Day**

Offices Closed Today

### **THURSDAY, 12/26**

- 7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### **FRIDAY, 12/27**

### **SATURDAY, 12/28**

- 7:00 pm New Covenant Choir Practice (Choir Room)

### **SUNDAY, 12/29**

- 9:30 am Worship in sanctuary and livestreaming  
GLOW, Preschool—5th grade, nursery open for infants—age 3  
6:00 pm Confirmation Class with dinner

### **TUESDAY, 12/31**

- 8:00 pm New Covenant Watch Night New Year's Eve in sanctuary

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DECEMBER YEAR END SCHEDULE REMINDER 2024 DEADLINES:**

Here is the reminder on the giving of financial gifts to the Church for year-end.

The last date to received anything in the mail: Saturday, December 28, 2024

The last date to gift a gift during worship: Sunday, December 29, 2024

The last date to drop off a gift outside of worship: Friday, December 27, 2024\*

\*If you intend to drop off a financial gift outside of worship, please verify that the Church office is open.

### **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.

**JANUARY 8, WEDNESDAY, 2-3PM, BIBLE STUDY GROUP RESUMES**

We will resume the Bible study group after the holidays on January 8, where we will continue our journey through 1 Corinthians. Come ready to study in depth into God's word together and share in fellowship as we grow in faith and understanding.

**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.

**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 15, 2024**

Worship In-Person Attendance: 163  
Sunday School Attendance: 6

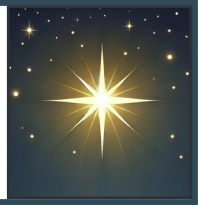
Weekly Budget Needs	<u>\$5,320.40</u>
Weekly In-Person Giving	\$2,843.51
Weekly On-Line Giving	\$ 781.56
	<b><u>\$3,625.07</u></b>
Special—Designated Giving*	<u>\$7,291.00</u>
<i>*Designated Giving can not be used for Budget Needs</i>	

### **ALTAR FLOWERS:**

In Memory of my mother Jean Cottrill, love Sue Cottrill

### **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



### **DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

Contact Lyn Bucalo at [L.bucalo@fairfieldstmarks.com](mailto:L.bucalo@fairfieldstmarks.com) to submit content for monthly newsletters on the 3rd Monday each month.

**JANUARY Newsletter deadline is MONDAY, DECEMBER 23!**



### **JANUARY MISSIONS: SHOE DRIVE**

We are collecting shoes.  
Contact Tari Randall

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

WIFI: StMarks Guest—PW: HelloFairfield