MEANDERINGS BY THE INTERIM

“For Christians, hope is ultimately hope in Christ. That hope that he is really what for centuries we have been claiming he is. The hope that despite the fact sin and death still rule the world, he somehow conquered them. The hope that in him and through him all of us stand a chance of somehow conquering them too. The hope that at some unforeseeable time and in some unimaginable way he will return with healing in his wings.” Fredrick Buechner, Wishful Thinking

As we move into Advent, for me it is a season of Hope. For many of us “older” Episcopalians it is similar to Lent. Especially with the purple hanging. Over the past many years there has been a movement to blue, the color of Mary and the color of HOPE.

Through our vision and music, we hear a different tone and message. It is the “come thou long expected Jesus.” It is the feeling of Hope of a child who would change things! The pregnant Mary brings me joy, wonder, excitement and most of all HOPE.

Imagine, over the next several weeks that you are preparing for your child’s, grandchild’s or nephew and niece’s birth. Would you too be sitting on pins and needles? Wouldn’t you too be HOPEFUL!

Chris+
Transitional Priest-in-Charge

ADVENT RESOURCES

“To the extent that your intention is clear and strong, your practice will be also. If your intention gets muddled and consumed, so will your practice. …You are simply asked to attend, to give yourself completely into that deeper, mysterious presence.” (from Chapter 12, The Wisdom Jesus, by Cynthia Bourgeault)

This will be an Advent season like no other: bringing opportunity for reflection about preparing the way. These resources may be helpful toward a blessed Advent:

◊ Journeying the Way of Love is a four week curriculum that moves through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. An Advent calendar, with daily suggestions for each of the seven practices of the Way of Love, can be found here: https://episcopalchurch.org/files/documents/approved_-_advent_2020_calendar_2.pdf

◊ Living Well Through Advent 2020 is a seasonal guide from Living Compass to help your heart, mind, strength and soul. https://www.livingcompass.org/advent

◊ Faith@Home is a way for families to talk to their kids about Jesus, outside of church, with weekly and daily lectionaries https://www.dofaithathome.org/

◊ Episcopal Relief and Development has an Advent Toolkit with lots of activities organized for each week of the season. https://www.episcopalrelief.org/1000daysoflove/2020advent/advent-1/
UPDATE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Thank you to all of you who took the time and effort to fill out a parish survey. This information is so important as we go forward in seeking the next rector for St. Mark’s. The information received will aid us in developing the parish profile or the story of who we are as a parish.

After the first of the year we will be offering focus groups to add to the information we are collecting. Watch for more information on these groups in the coming weeks.

We thank your for your prayers, kind words and patience!

UPDATES FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

TELEPHONE SERVICE DISRUPTION

The main phone line to St. Mark’s was damaged in October and has not yet been fully repaired. Callers may be able to ring the line, but the call fails to connect. Please know that staff have been checking on the status of the repair daily. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out via email:

- The office manager can be reached at OfficeManager@SaintMarksColumbus.org.
- Interim Rector Chris Thompson can be reached at Rector@SaintMarksColumbus.org.
- and Senior Warden Dot Yeager can be reached at SeniorWarden@SaintMarksColumbus.org.

You can also call Dot Yeager at 614-596-0826. Other alternate means for contacting the church by phone are in process and details will be shared once available. Thank you for your patience.
Saint Mark’s Phased Approach for Increasing In-Person Parish Life  
November 18, 2020

Change in Online Worship:

During the pandemic, the majority of our church families have worshipped with us online. Because this is expected to continue for the foreseeable future, a dedicated team, with Mark Drew and Matt Bester as co-chairs, has invested massive effort in sustaining the current method for delivering online worship. On Sunday, November 29, an improved audio visual recording system will launch. At the same time, a simpler way to access the livestream will debut. Vimeo will be the primary streaming option, with Facebook as secondary and Zoom audio offered for those who wish to dial in by telephone. The latest instructions for online worship access can be found on the Saint Mark’s website home page. The videos for all services are also available on-demand, immediately following each live broadcast on Saint Mark’s Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/saintmarkscolumbus/videos](https://www.facebook.com/pg/saintmarkscolumbus/videos)

We are blessed that our Diocese is vigilant about rapidly responding to the changing direction from the State of Ohio public health and other officials and ask for patience as guidelines are subject to change with very little notice.

Background:

During this time of world health crisis, Saint Mark’s has kept the safety of our community in mind as our worship practices have ebbed and flowed in response to guidance from both the Diocese and from our local public health officials. These adjustments represent an additional sacrifice during this extraordinarily difficult time. As we adjust our in-person parish life, Saint Mark's is guided by direction from our diocesan bishop, the Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal. Bishop Breidenthal has provided a phased plan, which is designed to protect the spiritual health and physical safety of our church. The movement between phases is driven by the direction from public health officials, good science and pastoral care in our community and is subject to change, either backwards or forwards. In early July, the State of Ohio published a public health advisory system which assigns a status to each county in the state and is updated weekly, each Thursday afternoon.

Bishop Breidenthal has asked the clergy and lay leadership in each church to determine how best to apply these guidelines. Accordingly, Saint Mark’s formed the “Open Hearts, Open Doors” Task Force in May. See the link on Saint Mark’s website for a list of task force members and other materials.

Since July, in addition to the organist, lay readers have been assisting the clergy in the sanctuary for the 10:30 a.m. online service.

Also at this time, groups, primarily support groups such as AA, who have agreed to follow our safety guidelines, are being allowed to use our parish hall for meetings of 10 or fewer.
Organist Update
I’m thrilled to announce that Robert Wisniewski will take up the post of Interim Organist beginning January 1. Bob was the Principal Organist and Assistant Director of Music at St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus from 2004 until his retirement in 2017. He has filled in as a substitute organist at Saint Mark’s on numerous occasions over the years, including on a couple of Sundays in the past several months. He also contributed the organ accompaniment for our most recent virtual choir anthem, Charles Villiers Stanford’s *O for a Closer Walk*, which premiered on November 15. He will be contributing additional recordings for upcoming virtual choir projects in Advent and for Christmas Eve.

Bob is a superb and experienced organist, and we are very blessed that he is available to help lead us through this interim period as we undertake our search for the next organist at Saint Mark’s. Our search will begin in earnest after the holidays, and we hope to have our next organist at the bench by August. Between now and January 1, we are delighted to continue to welcome Ron Kenreich as our guest organist. Ron has been with us for most of the Sundays since Tyler’s departure in October, and he has done an outstanding job leading us in song and worship each week. We are very grateful for his artistry and for his steady presence during these unusual and difficult times.

Update on Singing
Over the past couple months, we have gradually increased the role of our staff singers Steve Barker and Jacob Conrad during Sunday services. We began in October with solo chanting of the Psalm and the Alleluia from the Chapel of Reconciliation. In recent weeks, we have been able to have our cantors join in the singing of the hymns at the beginning and the end of the service. Unfortunately, with Franklin County recently having been moved to a Level 4 Health Emergency (purple), diocesan rules do not currently permit live singing during services. As a result, we will be seeking ways to incorporate recorded singing as well as virtual choir offerings until local conditions improve to the extent that we can resume live singing by cantors in the service.

Christmas Eve
Christmas Eve this year will be like no other in the history of Saint Mark’s. This year there will be a single, online-only service broadcast live at 5 p.m. Music will include a virtual Christmas pageant led by the Canterbury Choir as well as carols and an anthem (all virtual) by the Saint Mark’s Choir. The service will include our traditional singing of Silent Night, which we encourage everyone at home to join in singing by candlelight. The service will stream both on our website and on our Facebook page (audio only also available via Zoom). The recording will be available for viewing afterwards on our website and on Facebook for those who are unable to view it live.
STEWARDSHIP - FAITH-FILLED GENEROSITY

As of this writing, 60% of last year’s pledgers to Saint Mark’s have submitted a pledge for 2021, joined by two first-time pledgers. Our sincere thanks to each of you!

If you have not yet submitted your pledge, we urgently need your help! With so many of last year’s pledges outstanding, we are well below our needs for 2021, and the vestry is committed to developing a budget that lives within our anticipated income for the year. Will you please help us with this important planning and budgeting effort by sending in your pledge now?

Prior gifts from Saint Mark’s parishioners have empowered our many ministries. As the coronavirus pandemic continues, the need to expand our core base of faithful supporters is more important than ever. If you have not pledged to Saint Mark’s before, we ask that you consider doing so now. If you are a past pledger, we hope you will consider increasing your pledge in response to the growing need.

If you have a pledge card, you may return it to Saint Mark’s by US Mail or scan it and email it to treasurer@saintmarks columbus.org, or drop it in the secure box on the church office door. If you don’t have a pledge card, please visit Saint Mark’s web site at saintmarks columbus.org and click “Stewardship” on the main menu. On the stewardship page, look below the “Faith-Filled Generosity” logo and click the link provided for instructions. This will display a printable pledge form with instructions on how to return it to Saint Mark’s.

Our faith-filled mission at Saint Mark’s is to be a beacon of Christ’s presence in the world. This takes place individually in our prayers, words, actions, and gifts, and together by the work of Saint Mark’s in our lives and community. We hope you will support this important work with a generous pledge for 2021.

Sincerely,

Jay Wilcox
Chair, Saint Mark’s Stewardship Committee
Last chance to get your gifts in for the Giving Tree … deadline is Monday, December 7th.

The Giving Tree

As with most things, our annual Giving Tree Collection will be a little different this year. For the last few years, we have been collecting gifts for the NNEMAP Christmas Store. Parishioners have taken ornaments off the tree, bought the gifts listed on ornaments and then placed them under the tree in the church lobby. As we don’t know that we will be hosting in-person services during November, the Giving Tree Collection is changing a bit. This year there will be no ornaments, nor will there be a tree, but we still need your help. Please select gifts from our list of suggestions and then deliver them to the church. They may be put in the boxes in the lobby, or in the box in the Canterbury Center meeting room in the office. (The office is open weekdays from 9-12.) If neither of these options work for you, Outreach Members will be at the church on December 5th from 10AM to noon to accept your gifts.

Drop off your unwrapped gifts by December 7th.

Our focus this year will be on middle and high school children. Gift suggestions include: Gift cards to Target, Walmart, McDonalds, or Wendy’s; ear buds or other head sets; small electronic games; cosmetic gift sets or AXE body was for the boys; socks, hats, scarves; sweat shirts and hoodies; OSU things; fleece pants; books; watches; jewelry; board games; yoga pants; jeans; t-shirts. Gift wrap is also welcome.

Cookies for a Cause - Get Your Orders into Freedom

Our beloved Cookie Walk, one of our annual big fundraisers for Outreach, just can’t be safely held during this pandemic, so we have an alternative we would like you to support. Remember all of the money you spend baking the cookies you donate, well how about doing this instead…. Contactless pick up dates at St. Marks are December 5th from 10-12 and December 19th from 12-2.

Give presents with purpose this year - donate $25 to Freedom a la Cart and receive a box of CAUSE COOKIES!

Freedom a la Cart brings hope to survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation so they can build new lives of freedom and self-sufficiency. A nonprofit organization with a catering social enterprise. Freedom a la Cart provides workforce development and supportive services to survivors within our city.

With each $25 donated to Freedom’s Cause Cookie campaign, you’ll receive a beautifully packaged box of fresh, from-scratch holiday cookies. Each box contains a dozen assortment of coconut macaroons, brown butter rosemary pecan cookies, a traditional Gingersnap holiday favorite, lemon snowball cookies, and a note of thanks from a survivor on Freedom’s team. Your gift of $50 (2 boxes) provides one month of supportive services for a local survivor.

How to Order:
1. Go to Freedom a la Cart’s website, at https://FreedomALaCart.org/Cause-Cookies/
2. Select Delivery Method: Pick Up
3. Select your “Organization’s Name/Date/Time” under “Choose a Pickup Date”
4. Press “Next,” Enter in Billing Information
5. Pick Up your Cookies at your organization on the designated pick up time/location!
6. Celebrate! Knowing every two boxes of cookies purchased empowers a survivor with ONE MONTH of supportive services!
**Freedom’s Adopt a Family Christmas Program**

The women we serve through Freedom a la Cart and CATCH have been greatly impacted by the pandemic. As these survivors of sex trafficking work to learn practical job skills to secure a better future they are plagued by unemployment, decreased work hours and health issues. Volunteers of Freedom were asked to consider helping with a Christmas adopt a family program. On your behalf, St. Marks Outreach Ministry agreed to adopt three families. Barb Keyes and Leslie Winters thoroughly enjoyed playing Santa’s elves to obtain the gifts for the families.

Freedom a la Cart was recognized as the best business caterer by CEO magazine for the second year in a row.

**Volunteers Needed**

Would you be willing to help with an Outreach Project. The Outreach Ministry is always looking for volunteers. Some of the current needs are:

Would you be willing to cook something for Street Church? Or would you be willing to transport or serve the lunch? .. Contact Roberta Morton

Do you have a sewing machine and very basic sewing skills? Or can you knit simple items for the Layette Program? If you are interested..... Contact Leslie Winters

Would you be willing to do contactless deliver of meals for Freedom.... Contact Barb Keyes

Would you be willing to send notes to sex trafficked women in jail? Or to mentor a CATCH participant.....Contact Pat Iams

Would you be willing to work at the food pantry? Or deliver groceries to house bound people for NNEMAP.... Contact Bill Karl

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**CATCH Updates**

Have you ever wandered what the CATCH women have to do in order to advance to the next phase in CATCH Court? The document to the left outlines the requirements that the women have to fulfill in order to advance to the second, third and fourth phase of CATCH. The newest change, is the CATCH participants will receive a "big sister" when they enter CATCH. When a client Phases Up to CATCH Phase 4, they only have to attend 2 CATCH sessions a month, but they can’t miss 2 outings in a row or 2 court sessions in a row.

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**In order to advance to PHASE TWO of the CATCH Court Program:**
- Completed at least 3 months of treatment
- Demonstrated consistent attendance to status review hearings, groups, appointments, and meetings.
- Reviewed CATCH 101 content with CATCH staff
- Completed and turned in a copy of your relapse prevention plan
- Present relapse plan in court with hotseat
- Schedule phase up meeting with CATCH team

**In order to advance to PHASE THREE of the CATCH Court Program:**
- Completed at least 9 months of treatment
- No new charges in the last 90 days
- No violations in the past month
- Present lead (written or verbal) to CATCH 101
- Complete Healthy Relationship Workbook and relationship hotseat in court
- attend Codependents Anon Mtg with journal prompt
- Receive "little sister" assigned by staff and begin supporting her
- Schedule phase up meeting with CATCH team

**In order to advance to PHASE FOUR of the CATCH Court Program:**
- Completed at least 15 months of CATCH/treatment
- No new charges in the last 90 days
- No violations in the past month
- Complete Human Trafficking Assessment
- Facilitate a court session
- Report to staff about experience supporting "little sister"
- Schedule phase up meeting with CATCH team

**In order to GRADUATE the CATCH Court Program:**
- Completed at least 21 months of CATCH/treatment
- No new charges for 6 months
- No sanctions in last 90 days
- Provide lead during court
- Attend at least one Butterfly event
- Report to staff about experience supporting "little sister"
- Schedule pre-graduation meeting with Judge & CATCH staff

Judge Jodi Thomas reported that the Columbus PD had a sting operation recently and it was encouraging to see how much better they treated the women that were arrested. When they brought the women in to get processed, they took off the their handcuffs and gave them a meal. The Salvation Army, the React Team and medics were there to help them. After experiencing what happened with Vice, the new PACT team headed by Chief Knight has created checks and balances have been developed to ensure that it doesn’t happen again.
St. John Dinners and Street Church
Thanks to Sally and Cully Rechner for coordinating, preparing and serving the St. John’s dinner in November.

Thank you also to Roberta Morton and everyone who helped with the Street Church lunch the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

DONATIONS NEEDED
As your children or grandchildren grow, consider donating gently used baby or toddler items. The layette program would love to recycle your gently used clothing (up to size 4T) or baby gear (car seats cannot be accepted). The families we help are also in need of larger items such as pack and plays. If you have items to donate, contact Leslie Winters or Barb Keyes.

Any old blankets, coats, gloves, boots or camping gear taking up space. The open shelter always has a need for these items. If you have items to donate, contact Roberta Morton.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER
We offer our condolences:
Ross Bagby’s mother Marilla Barlow Bagby passed away November 5th in a Phoenix, AZ hospice. She had reached the age of 100 just two months before. It was peaceful, her daughter Marcia Niezgoda being by her bedside to the last.

We celebrate recent new members:
Matt and Kellee Dipaola joined Saint Mark’s in October. They have transferred from St. Patrick’s. Welcome!

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER is a new printed project to enhance communication among parishioners. It comes from a long standing tradition in the Church of England where certain public records were officially recorded in the great ledgers of their parish church. You can sign up for weekly email updates about Saint Mark’s on our website www.saintmarkscolumbus.org, click on “Join Our Mailing List.”

AN UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER
As Jay Wilcox works diligently on the Pledge Campaign to provide the financial resources that we will need for next year, I thought you would appreciate an update on how we are doing as we wind down 2020. As of this writing, we have six weeks left in the year and we have collected about 82% of our total pledges. That leaves $73,000 remaining to collect. Historically, pledge payments increase significantly after Thanksgiving. In addition, we had a VERY generous member donate a substantial amount over her pledge. As a result, I expect our member contributions we be remarkably close to budget by year end.

On the expense side, with Paul, Christopher and Tyler gone, our staff expenses for the last three months of the year will be down by a little over $11,000 a month. We still need to maintain the church grounds, pay for insurance, security, and many office related expenses, but all expenses are below budget except worship. The costs of technology to broadcast our services via Zoom and Facebook have added roughly $360 per month to our worship expense, not including the capital investment to bring our capabilities to a much higher level as described in last month’s Epistle.

Taking all the above into consideration, including the loss of $2,850 per month from the Junior Explorer’s program, I believe we will finish the year at breakeven. Thanks be to God! I hope you join me in being grateful for our many blessings!

Phil Glandon, Treasurer
VESTRY NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Vestry is the governing body of the congregation and consists of 15 members of the parish who are elected by the congregation. It is the vestry’s responsibility to be the final decision-making body, which approves the parish budget, makes parish policy decisions, and spends the parish’s money on mission, ministry and maintenance. Ideally, the vestry should reflect a cross-section of the congregation and the varieties of experience, skills, and interests of our faith community. While Saint Mark’s practices a shared leadership model with our clergy, the church canons assigns certain responsibilities to the rector, specifically worship and spiritual life.

The Vestry consists of three wardens and twelve members. (Think of the Senior and Junior wardens as president and a vice-president.) The Youth Warden (high school age) is included to represent the voice of our youth. Each warden is elected for a one-year term. The other 12 members of the Vestry are elected for three-year terms. Each year, four new parishioners are elected. The vestry also appoints a treasurer and a clerk annually. Information about current vestry members can be found on Saint Mark’s website at the About Us tab: http://saintmarkscolumbus.org/vestry/.

What are the attributes of a Vestry candidate?
- Regular attendance at church
- Be an active participant in Saint Mark’s parish life
- Support Saint Mark’s financially at a level consistent with their means and capacity: annual giving to Saint Mark’s should be one of their top three charitable causes

What is expected of a Vestry member?
A person who is selected to the Vestry should be called to make a sacrificial commitment to the role, and perform the following duties:
- Represent all parishioners, not specific groups within the parish or specific interests: think, pray, act in the best interests of the parish as a whole.
- Attend significant parish events
- Accept responsibility for committee work
- Attend vestry meetings, the annual retreat, and faithfully fulfill “Vestry Person of the Week” duties on a minimum of four Sundays throughout the year (this role has been on “pause” during this phase of the pandemic
- Serve a full three-year term
- Assist in recruiting new vestry members

Next steps:
Election of new members to vestry will occur at the Annual Parish Celebration on Sunday, February 14, following the 10:30 a.m. service. If you would like to discuss in detail or offer a nomination, please see the Nominating Committee: David Boop, Pam Thurston, Jay Wilcox, Dot Yeager or Mark Drew.
IN AND AROUND SAINT MARK’S

A NOTE FROM FORMER RECTOR
PAUL ST. GERMAIN

Thanks to everyone again for the wonderful send-off this Fall, and your current thoughts and best wishes. Tavish and I are very well, slowly settling in Maine (she is practicing a New England bark - woof!), and looking ahead to enjoying Portland when COVID allows for normal days again...

Meanwhile, prayers and best wishes to all for a blessed and healthy holiday season!

Fondly, Paul

AV TEAM SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

Join those people ‘behind the curtain’ who produce Saint Mark’s online religious services! The Technology Team is seeking additional tech-comfortable volunteers of all ages to assist with operating our upgraded broadcast equipment. If interested, please send an email to AV@saintmarks columbus.org.

SUPPER GROUP

Zoom cocktail parties are going well. We will continue meeting on the first Saturday of each month. All ages, singles, and couples are welcome. If you are interested in joining us, please forward your email address to OfficeManager@SaintMarksColumbus.org and you will be included in future meeting notifications. For additional information please call Gloria Wylie at 614-525-9715.

Zoom link is: https://saintmarks columbus.zoom.us/j/96770888927

STAYING CONNECTED

Many activities at St. Mark’s continue to take place in some form in spite of social distancing and closures, and many more will resume as restrictions are eased. In an effort to match parish members with interest groups, we are requesting that small group leaders or contact people check the St. Mark’s website: Enrichment Groups | Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church, Columbus and review the information about your group. If it is lacking, or inaccurate, please send corrections, especially updated contact information, to Marilyn Karl, mjkarl@yahoo.com or Jay Iams, Iams_1@hotmail.com. Thank you for helping to keep us connected!

ADULT FORMATION OFFERINGS

Beloved Community,

We have an exciting virtual program for adult formations on Sundays and Wednesdays. We so hope that you will join us. We think that you will find that the program ties in with many things we have been doing in our various church missions, reading groups and other faith formation. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Sundays 9:15-10:15am on Zoom [https://saintmarks columbus.zoom.us/j/96946245192]


In December, we will host a short lecture/discussion series on the historical role of religion in politics, beginning with a session its role in the formation of modern democracy. Judith Grant, professor of Political Science at Ohio University, will present the following topics on the following Wednesday evenings, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Zoom [https://saintmarks columbus.zoom.us/j/91219463343]

December 9  Revolts Against the Catholic Church and the Creation of Democracy

December 16  The Southern Christian Leadership Conference

December 30  The Rise of Evangelicals and the "Southern Strategy"
IACO ANNUAL INTERFAITH PRAYER GATHERING

From a divided political environment to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020 has been a year of unprecedented change and turbulence. As we end this year and look towards 2021, we all need to take a break and focus on the positives in our lives. The Interfaith Association of Central Ohio invites you to a virtual prayer gathering: Coming Together as a Beloved Community with Our Heads, Hearts, and Hands from 4:30-5:30 on December 13, 2020. This uplifting and inspiring event will provide reflections from nine faith traditions about how we can create a more beloved community together.

Registration is required. Please click on the flyer below or email: office@iaco.org to register.

Please feel free to share with your friends and faith groups. If you would like a .pdf with embedded link or .jpg of the flyer, contact office@iaco.org.

Be Still and Know: Young Adult Virtual Retreat Dec 17-18

Join us for 2020’s Young Adult Virtual Retreat, Be Still and Know. Take a deep breath and escape the chaos of 2020 as we provide an array of opportunities to reconnect with yourself and God.

If you register at the link below by December 4, a care package to enhance the retreat will be shipped to you. Registrations received after Dec 4 will receive their care package after the retreat has ended.

Register at https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/w105lyrc175sydj/
Our National Church’s Episcopal Migration Ministries office is offering this prayer vigil for Advent to all Episcopalians nationwide.

Episcopal Migration Ministries

Refugee Prayer Vigil

In the Christian liturgical year, Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for the birth of Jesus, a time of prayerful yearning for Emmanuel, “God with us.” To honor and mark this holy time, EMM offers a prayer vigil, modeled off a ‘Blue Christmas’ prayer service, to invite prayer and reflection on Advent themes in a world being transformed by forced migration.

Episcopal Migration Ministries, in partnership with the EMM Asylum Ministry Network and EMM Immigration Detention Ministry Network, will host a virtual Advent vigil on Sunday, December 13, 7:00 – 8:00 pm EST. The Advent vigil will be available via Zoom webinar and Facebook Live.

Registration is required and is available through this link:

https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/advent/

For additional information, please contact Joyce Acton – 614-560-9219.
Advent Retreat Day at Transfiguration Spirituality Center (TSC)

Saturday, Dec 5, 12 to 5 p.m.

The lectionary texts for the second Sunday of Advent give us glimpses of how God uses the edge to pull us toward discoveries of a peace that is not of our own making. The edge is often the starting place of God's unexpected shalom. This shalom is a gift which God awakens in order that the hidden wholeness and desire of Holy Love may find its way into our lived experience in often subtle yet profound ways.

This retreat will invite participants to consider the edge places and times of their own experience and the holy surprise that often lies hidden in such space. A blend of word, music, imagery, and much silence will be the gift that is shared so that the edge may be welcomed and even savored.

The retreat will be led by the Rev. David Long-Higgins, UCC Conference convener and current President of the Ohio Council of Churches.

For more information: https://bit.ly/35KDK6o
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<tr>
<th><strong>Tuesday, December 1st</strong></th>
<th><strong>Wednesday, December 16th</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 : Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)</td>
<td>6:00 PM: Adult Formation (Zoom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 PM: Weekly Staff Meeting, Women of St. Mark’s (Zoom)</td>
<td>7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, December 2nd</strong></td>
<td>8:00 PM: Prayer Group (Zoom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 PM: Adult Formation (Zoom)</td>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 17th</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)</td>
<td>6:15 PM &amp; 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 PM: Prayer Group (Zoom)</td>
<td><strong>Friday, December 18th</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, December 3rd</strong></td>
<td>8:00 PM: AA Groups (Parish Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:15 PM &amp; 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)</td>
<td><strong>Saturday, December 19th</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friday, December 4th</strong></td>
<td>10:00 AM: Cookie Pick Up (Parish Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 PM: AA Groups (Parish Hall)</td>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 20th</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, December 5th</strong></td>
<td>Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 PM Cookie Pick Up (Parish Hall)</td>
<td>9:15 AM: Adult Formation (Zoom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM: Supper Group (Zoom)</td>
<td>9:45 AM: Children’s Formation (Zoom)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 6th</strong></td>
<td>10:30 AM: Liturgy of the Word (Live Streamed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson</td>
<td>4:00 PM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I (In Person)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 AM: Adult Formation (Zoom)</td>
<td>8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 AM: Children’s Formation (Zoom)</td>
<td><strong>Monday, December 21st</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM: Liturgy of the Word (Live Streamed)</td>
<td>5:30 PM: AA - Men’s Group (Parish Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 PM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I (In Person)</td>
<td>7:00 PM: Sisters in Faith (Zoom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 22nd</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, December 7th</strong></td>
<td>1:15 : Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM: AA - Men’s Group (Parish Hall)</td>
<td>3:00 PM: Weekly Staff Meeting, Women of St. Mark’s (Zoom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 8th</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 23rd</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 : Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)</td>
<td>7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM: Weekly Staff Meeting, Women of St. Mark’s (Zoom)</td>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 24th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 9th</strong></td>
<td>6:15 PM &amp; 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM: Stephen Ministry Meeting (Zoom)</td>
<td><strong>Friday, December 25th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM: Adult Formation (Zoom)</td>
<td>Christmas Day - Worship Service Schedule TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)</td>
<td>8:00 PM: AA Groups (Parish Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 10th</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 27th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM: Stephen Ministry Meeting</td>
<td>Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15 PM &amp; 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)</td>
<td>9:15 AM: Adult Formation (Zoom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, December 11th</strong></td>
<td>9:45 AM: Children’s Formation (Zoom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM: AA Groups (Parish Hall)</td>
<td>10:30 AM: Liturgy of the Word (Live Streamed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>4:00 PM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I (In Person)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 13th</strong></td>
<td>8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preacher: The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson</td>
<td><strong>Monday, December 28th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 AM: Adult Formation (Zoom)</td>
<td>5:30 PM: AA - Men’s Group (Parish Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 AM: Children’s Formation (Zoom)</td>
<td>7:30 PM: Saint Mark’s Monday Night Book Group (Zoom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM: Liturgy of the Word (Live Streamed)</td>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 29th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I (In Person)</td>
<td>1:15 : Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)</td>
<td>3:00 PM: Weekly Staff Meeting, Women of St. Mark’s (Zoom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, December 14th</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 30th</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM: AA - Men’s Group (Parish Hall)</td>
<td>7:45 PM: The Marksmen (Zoom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 15th</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 31st</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 : Clergy Lectionary Study (Youth Lounge)</td>
<td>6:15 PM &amp; 8:00 PM: AA (Parish Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM: Weekly Staff Meeting, Women of St. Mark’s (Zoom)</td>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 31st</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Saturdays that are not listed do not currently feature any programming or meetings.*
Part of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, Saint Mark’s held its first worship service in 1951 in a converted Methodist church in Grandview. Ground was broken in 1953 for the Parish Hall (now the Education Building) where services were held until the current Nave and Sanctuary was completed in 1958. Office space in an adjacent building was purchased in 1989. Major renovations of the entire facility occurred in 2004 and 2008 creating a campus today that empowers Christ’s ministry within and beyond our parish.