

Ohio Association

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Barnabas Ministry

Supporting Those Called by God

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) c/o Faith Community Church, 4301 Cleveland Ave. NW, Canton, OH 44709

THE STORY OF JOHN MARK

The story of John Mark is remarkable. It is a story of faith, ministry, withdrawal from ministry, restoration, and finally, authoring one of the Gospels.

You may know this story. But if not, here it is.

John Mark may be the "young man" of Mark 14:51-52, whose linen cloth was grabbed during Jesus' arrest and who ran away naked. What suggests this is the anonymous, third person nature of the account, like Paul's in II Corinthians 12:2.

For that, we know that the Mary of Acts 12:2 was Mark's mother, hosting a prayer meeting for Peter in her home while Peter was in prison (Acts 12:5). We know that Mark was a cousin of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10) and that he arrived in Antioch with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:15). We know that Mark accompanied Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey as far as Pamphilia (Acts 13:5, 13), but then withdrew and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13).

We know that when Paul and Barnabas were planning a second missionary Journey (Acts 15:36) they had a sharp disagreement whether to take Mark because Mark had left the work the first time (Acts 15:37-38). The disagreement was so sharp they went different ways. Paul took Silas, Barnabas took Mark (Acts 15:39-40).

However, we know Paul refers to Mark being with him years later during his first imprisonment in Rome (Philemon 24, Colossians 4:10). During his second imprisonment, not long before his execution, Paul writes: "Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful in serving me." (II Timothy 4:11).

Not only that, but Peter comments about that same time that Mark is with him, and calls him his son (I Peter 5:13). This is just before both Peter and Paul were executed during the Neronian persecution of A.D. 64. Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History, c. 324) records how Papias, a disciple of John, wrote in the year 125 that Mark was Peter's translator in Rome, wrote down notes from Peter's preaching and teaching, later authoring the Gospel that bears his name.

Many experience a call into pastoral ministry and later hear an adjustment of that call into a different form of service. But others today are leaving ministry, or even deconstructing from Christian faith entirely. That reality was the focus of Ed Stetzer's Church Planter's Leadership Fellowship conference in Naperville, IL, this summer, co-sponsored by Exponential. Please contact me if you want to hear more.

But there is always hope. John Mark is an example. By God's grace, note the role Barnabas played in John Mark's life.

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Praise God! The OA Barnabas Ministry prayer network has grown to over 258 prayer warriors! More are always needed! To support those called by God through the Barnabas Ministry, you can donate online at www.cccohio.org. or make a check out to OA Barnabas Ministry and mail to: First Congregational Church, 114 Church St., Lodi, OH 44254. Thank you, and God bless you!

PS - also note how God used Barnabas in Paul's life. Acts 9:26 records how Saul, now Paul after seeing and believing in Jesus (Acts 9:4-5), went to Jerusalem for the first time after his conversion, but the disciples were afraid because "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy" (Galatians 1:23). It was Barnabas who took to Paul and introduced him to the apostles (Acts 9:27). Imagine if Barnabas had not been there to support Paul and introduce him to the apostles. Imagine if he had not been there to give John Mark a second chance. The letters of Paul might not have been written. The Gospel of Mark might not have been written. Most of the New Testament, therefore, might not have been written! No wonder the apostles renamed Joseph, a Levite and native of Cyprus: Barnabas, "Son of encouragement." (Acts 4:36).



Bryan Long

4c's Director of Church Multiplication
will be with us October 28th!
First Congregational Church of Lodi
9:30 - 1:00 p.m., lunch included
Join us!

The mission of the Barnabas Ministry is to support those called by God. Please continue to pray for God's presence, power, and guidance as we follow that call (Eph. 2:10)!
Thank you so much for your prayers, and God bless you!
Much love, in Christ,
Pastor Dave & Joanne

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE OHIO ASSOCIATION

ST. JAMES CHURCH AT CROSSROADS

The first religious services held at a place called Cross Roads took place in the fall of 1826, when Lutheran and German Reformed settlers assembled in a log cabin meeting house, which also served as the local schoolhouse. design by freepik

In 1881 the present church was built at 11491 Elton St. SW & Pigeon Run Road. Though it's had many upgrades and updates to the building and the grounds, St. James continues its primary mission of being a light in the community as a member church of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference. Our greater mission of the church includes support for The Barnabas Ministries, The Fairless Food Cupboard, SAM – Serving Area Military, Hammers & Nails, Local Utilities assistance, & Fairless Elementary student supplies. We are proud of our adopted Ugandan "member", Ibra Serankuma, from age 5 until 30 this year, a graduate Civil Engineer, we continue to support him and help his family.

This stately red roofed church still stands "at the cross roads" welcoming all passersby to enter her welcoming doors and sit in the 1881 pews. The Rev. William C. Andrick, Pastor, ministers to the congregation at 10:00am on Sunday mornings. Like so many smaller churches, Covid was a real bad influence on attendance and participation. However, prayer, local outreach and blended services that are appealing to all age groups have helped keep us relevant in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. We have been blessed with fourteen members added in the last 2 years. Projected worship helps, gospel, blue grass and contemporary music fill the sanctuary. A wonderful video by Darrell Wiles was filmed in our church – "Words I Say". Check it out on YouTube.com.

Rev. William C. Andrick, Pastor
September 2, 2025

