

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 8:15 / 9:45 AM** - Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary accompanied by an organ/piano.
- 11:15 AM** - *The Gathering*— Modern worship in the Sanctuary, accompanied by a band.

Sunday School for All Ages

(8:15, 9:45 & 11:15 AM)

Infants & Toddlers Rm. 15

(9:45 AM)

Preschool Rm. 2
Kindergarten Rm. 1
First Grade Rm. 3
Second & Third Grades Rm. 6
Fourth & Fifth Grades Rm. 9
Middle School & High School Wesley House

Five Questions of Christmas Rm. 17
(hosted by Sharing and Family Life classes)

(11:00 AM)

Common Grounds (25-45 age group) Rm. 20
Bible Divers Sunday School Rm. 6/7

(11:15 AM)

Seekers 1 & 2 Kings Rm. 17/18

All adults are invited to join any of our adult classes at any time.

Please come as the Spirit leads you.

Wednesday Night Worship Schedule

- 5:45 PM** - Community Meal - Fellowship Hall
6:15 PM - Children's Ministry - Rm. 8/9
6:20 PM - Casual Worship - Fellowship Hall

Thanks for the Gifts You Bring Today

Flowers on the Altar

See insert

Greeters

Phyllis Dirksen, Chris Lawver (8:15)
Jon & Lynn Thalman (9:45)

Liturgists

Alberta Farnsworth (8:15)
Tim Weiler (9:45)

Advent Candle Lighters

Don, Ruth, Rachel & Mackenzie Kester (8:15)
Alex, Andrea & Ella Craig (9:45)

Ushers

The Third Sunday Team

Organist / Accompanist

Sondra Franks

Special Music

Music before worship: Bob Turcker
Percussion accompanists: Porter Ellerman, Ian Mast,
Claire Thorpe, Zachary White
Bells of St. Mark's, directed by Joann Luther
Chancel Choir, directed by Elizabeth Schauer

Sound

Paul Simpson (8:15)
Pat Alcivar (9:45)

Refreshment Hosts

The Nussmans (9:15)
Amy Gosla, Linda Smallwood (10:45)

Did You Know...

The Thanksgiving offering raised \$7,175. Two-thirds of this amount will be donated to the St. Mark's Early Childhood Center for childcare scholarships, and the other one-third will be sent to Open Doors USA for a project that benefits women in Egypt. Thank you for your generous contributions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Mark's will again be hosting a Soup and Bread Luncheon following the 11:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve. This is a simple meal of soup and bread. All are welcome! **Please consider contributing** a crock-pot of homemade soup or homemade (or bakery-made) bread, rolls or muffins. Contact Renee Carrasco at (see directory) with your item for contribution. Advance notice is necessary, so we can make sure we have enough electrical outlets available for the delicious crock-pot donations.

We need USHERS for the four Christmas Eve services. Ushering is not difficult--a welcoming smile, a basic sense of direction (as in front, back, sides) and a willingness to work with some other terrific volunteers. PLEASE sign up on the one (or more) of the clipboards on the patio, or call Pat Small (see directory). The pay is high praise and lots of gratitude! AND a great big THANK YOU to those who have already volunteered to be ushers, greeters, Communion servers and acolytes!! You are awesome!

Making Connections--Our theme in worship in 2018 will focus on connecting us to God and one another. We will have the opportunity to make connections by joining various small groups throughout the year which focus on specific connections. For connecting to creation, we have three groups: a hiking/walking group, a *Made to Crave* group, and a group studying the theology of creation. **Sign up on the Adult Spiritual Growth board** in the courtyard. Contact Margaret Synhorst (margaret@umcstmarks.org) for more information.

Altar flowers are donated each week with a dedication in the bulletin announcements. **If you are interested in honoring a special occasion or remembering a loved one**, please take this opportunity to get on the 2018 calendar now available in the narthex; please look for the board labeled *Volunteer Opportunities*. Contact Pat Adams (see directory) with questions.

Please **wait until you've received your year-end statement of giving to file your income tax** return. Some donors may not be able to deduct certain contributions if they file a tax return before receiving their church contribution receipt. For contributions to be deducted in 2017, they must be received at the church by December 31. This means that a check deposited in the church offering in January of 2018 cannot be deducted in 2017, even if it is backdated to 2017. One exception - checks that are written, mailed, and postmarked in 2017 are deductible if received in January 2018.

Each month, on the second and fifth Saturdays, St. Mark's has committed to **servicing dinner at the Primavera Men's Shelter**. This is an opportunity for your family or group of friends to come together to plan, purchase, prepare, and serve this meal for approx. 100 men. If you are interested in serving in this way of taking Christ into the world in

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

2018, please look for the brown board labeled *Volunteer Opportunities* in the narthex. Contact the church office (297-2062) with questions.

Soul Station is our Wednesday night casual worship with a focus on fellowship. We begin this service with a meal furnished by St. Mark's (potluck on the last Wednesday of the month). We ask for volunteers to assist in planning, purchasing, preparing, and serving each week. This is another opportunity for your family or group to serve in 2018. Please consider **signing up on the *Volunteer Opportunities* board in the narthex.** Clara Campbell (see directory) will answer any questions regarding budget and menus; Clara will also handle the setup.

Looking for a tax credit? **Tax credits help the kindergarteners in the Early Childhood Center (ECC)** afford to attend our private school. Your contributions are a dollar for dollar credit. The amount given is taken off your tax liability. You may designate St. Mark's ECC or better yet, designate one of our kindergarten students and help them directly. If you have questions, contact the ECC office (797-2925).

If you missed the coffee sale in the courtyard earlier this month, St. Mark's Aqua Prieta Task Force still has **several bags of the 100% Arabica, fair-trade, organic coffee available for sale.** Please contact Jay Suchland (see directory).

Thoughts & Prayers Go Out To...

Donald Chester	Karen Linebarier	Lona Stauffacher
Judy Drescher	Dell Long	Sharon Thomas
Breanne Hallam	Ray Loughney	Jim Ward
Carolyn Hanna	Ruth Machtley	Donald Watt
David & Floretta	Ann Martin	Dave Webster
Harrington	Judy Mitzimberg	Connie White
Harmon & Mary	Betty Myers	Lindsay Williams
Harrison	Howard & Gina Russell	Yvonne Yare
Patricia Keele	Earlene Schock	
Megan Krzmarzick	Roger Shuma	

Gail Blevins
(see directory)

Carol Underwood
(see directory)

Hazel Roberts
(see directory)



MESSENGER ARTICLES
messenger@umcstmarks.org

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS
bulletin@umcstmarks.org

EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN
prayerchain@umcstmarks.org

Want to give online?

Go to: umcstmarks.org and click on "Donation/Payment" or scan this code:



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

December 17 - 23, 2017

SUNDAY

8:15 AM Traditional Worship—Sanctuary
 9:00 AM Grace Notes—Rm. 18
 9:45 AM Confirmation Class—Rm. 20
 9:45 AM Traditional Worship—Sanctuary
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Common Grounds Bible Study—Rm. 20
 11:00 AM Bible Divers—Rm. 6/7
 11:15 AM Adult Sunday School
 11:15 AM The Gathering—Sanctuary
 4:00 PM Youth Group—Wesley House
 4:00 PM Preteens—Rm. 8/9
 4:00 PM Christian Believer—Rm. 20
 6:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous—Library

MONDAY

9:15 AM Holy Yoga—Fellowship Hall
 10:00 AM Al-Anon—Library
 10:30 AM Advent Study—Mtn View Retirement
 4:00 PM Disciple I—Rm. 20
 4:00 PM *Grief Support—Counselors Office
 6:00 PM NO Experiencing God—Library
 6:30 PM Bells Rehearsal—Sanctuary
 7:00 PM Gamblers Anonymous—Rm. 20
 7:00 PM Gam-Anon—Rm. 23

TUESDAY

9:30 AM Grace Circle—Library
 6:00 PM Disciple III—Rm. 17/18
 7:00 PM Al-Anon—Library

WEDNESDAY

7:30 AM Marksmen Breakfast—Coco's
 10:00 AM Bible Study—Rm. 17/18
 12:00 PM MESSENGER DEADLINE
 12:00 PM BULLETIN DEADLINE
 5:45 PM Community Meal—Fellowship Hall
 6:15 PM Common Grounds Chat—Library
 6:15 PM Children's Ministry—Rm. 8/9
 6:15 PM Celebration Singers—Choir Rm.
 6:20 PM Longest Night Service—Fellowship Hall
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir —Sanctuary

THURSDAY

9:00 AM NO Quilters—Rm. 17/18
 6:30 AM MOMS Military—Library
 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal—Sanctuary

FRIDAY

8:30 AM Bulletin Folders—Fellowship Hall
 9:30 AM Bits-n-Pieces—Wesley House Patio
 7:00 PM Gamblers Anonymous—Rm. 20

SATURDAY

9:00 AM Worship Committee—Sanctuary

*If planning to attend for the first time, please contact Lane Harmon at 297-6228.

Upcoming Sunday, December 24th:

See insert in this bulletin

This Week at Soul Station

Soul Station is our Wednesday night casual service. Join us on December 20, as we bring in the Longest Night, a service of hope for the holidays with harp music and meditative readings. We will start with a community meal at 5:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

All are welcome!

Soul Station
Digging Deeper