



Messenger

Volume 57, Number 7

April 4, 2017

Changing the world through Christ, by caring for all people.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST. MARK'S

Come to church during Holy Week to experience the journey from the majesty and power of Palm and Passion Sunday through to the joy and resurrection of Easter. A variety of worship experiences will help you deeply know the presence of Christ's love.

Palm & Passion Sunday — April 9

Sermon: Given Strength. Traditional worship at 8:15 and 9:45 a.m. and Modern worship at 11:15 a.m.; includes a procession with palm branches. The 8:15 and 9:45 a.m. services will include our Easter Cantata — *A Passion Journey* featuring a string quartet, organ, soloists, choir and congregational participation as well.

Soul Station — Wed., April 12, at 5:45 p.m.

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a community meal at 5:45 p.m. followed at 6:30 p.m. with a Taizé service of reflection, readings, song and communion.

Holy Thursday — April 13 at 7:00 p.m.

A traditional remembrance of the Last Supper, with Chamber Ensemble music, and Holy Communion, in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Way of the Cross — Fri., April 14, at 5 and 6 p.m.

A somber procession through the stations of the cross in the Meditation Garden, with prayers and liturgies in remembrance of Christ's journey to the cross. Meet at the Meditation Gardens entrance at 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday — April 14 at 7:00 p.m.

A powerful drama, titled *Have You Seen My Son?* by Jon McCauley Smith, in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Be prepared to be deeply moved as the mothers of Jesus, Judas, James and John, John Mark and Barabbas all speak from their heart about their son and the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus.

Holy Saturday — April 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Faith for In-Between Times: For everything that happens in life, there is a season. As we journey from winter to spring, there are days that still feel dark and cold and the new growth has not yet begun. It is not always easy to see that there is life where we cannot yet see what will soon break through from hard places. You are invited to this contemplative space in the Sanctuary for a time of meditative readings and harp music as we reflect on this "in-between" time in our lives and how Christ shares this journey with us to give us hope.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16

Sermon: Rolling the Stone Away

6:00 a.m. — Sunrise Service

An outdoor service on the church labyrinth, led by the St. Mark's youth, with Holy Communion.

7:00 - 10:30 a.m. — Pancake Breakfast

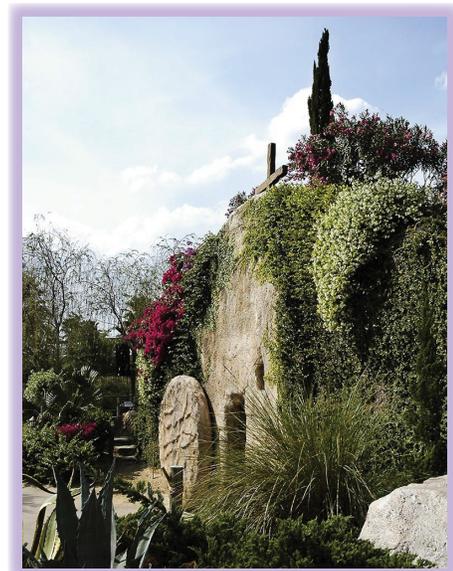
Breakfast served on the West Patio, sponsored by the St. Mark's youth. Donations benefit Sierra Service Mission Project.

8:15 and 9:45 a.m. — Traditional Worship Service

A service with traditional hymns accompanied by an organ, and Chancel Choir. Bring a fresh flower to decorate the floral cross located at the Sanctuary entrance.

11:15 a.m. — The Gathering

A modern service with worship songs led by a Praise Team and accompanied by a band.





St. Mark's Messenger

St. Mark's United
Methodist Church
1431 W. Magee Road
Tucson, AZ 85704
(520) 297-2062
Fax: (520) 297-1058

E-MAIL:

info@umcstmarks.org

WEBSITE:

www.umcstmarks.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

8:15, 9:45 and
11:15am

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:

Light supper - 5:45pm
Music/Programs -
6:15-7:15

SENIOR PASTOR:

Rev. Sharon Ragland

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Rev. Tammy Hallam

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS:

Greg Poling

YOUTH MINISTRIES:

Kim Ogle

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH:

Sallyann Wassmuth,
Pro tempore

MESSANGER EDITOR:

Kandy Delk,
Pro tempore

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messenger
@umcstmarks.org

Next Messenger deadline:

April 13th

Calendar Notes

Divorce Recovery will begin a 10-week group session on Thurs., April 6, at 7:00 p.m. in Rm. 17/18. The class will close to newcomers on the second week, April 13.

The SOS (Socializing Our Seniors) Committee will meet on Fri., April 7, at 10:00 a.m. in Rm. 20.

Join Clay Thompson for a **Meditation Gardens workday** this Sat., April 8, at 7:00 a.m.

A Prayer Bead workshop will be in the Fellowship Hall this Sat., April 8, at 9:00 a.m.

Worship Committee will have a work days in the sanctuary this Sat., April 8, at 9:00 a.m., and again on Sat., April 15, at 11:00 a.m.

Good Friday Drama rehearsals will be held in the sanctuary this Sat., April 8, at 1:00 p.m., and on Tues., April 11, at 7:00 p.m.



The Mark-a-ritas will host a **Welcome Baby Luncheon** for new moms, babies, and babies-to-be on Sat., April 22, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you have had or will be having a baby between the spring of 2016 and the summer of 2017, we would like to invite you. This is a chance to meet with other mothers and mothers-to-be from our church. RSVP to Linda Hill (See Directory).

Adult Mission Trip Planning Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m. in room 20 – Where should we go this year? Last Fall we had 11 people go to San Diego and Tijuana. It was a great trip. We've also gone to Los Angeles, Puerto Peñasco, and Salt Lake City. Let's discuss some ideas and figure out some potential dates in the Fall. (See the Missions Corner on pg. 6.)

Dear Church Family...

I truly appreciate the services last Sunday (*March 19*)! What an honor to be recognized after several years. I am always proud to be a part of this wonderful church and know about God's love and continuing care. Thank you to everyone!

Marian Shultis

Thank you for ministering to us these past three months; in your warm, welcoming and friendly way. Your love of the Lord and each other is amazing. We have enjoyed each Bible and book study. Pastors Sharon, Tammy and Evy's messages feed our souls. You are blessed with a great staff. This church has much to offer the Tucson community.

Chuck & Linda Hoffman

Go for 2 in 2017

This year as we focus on Good News for Today's World, the Christian Formation Team is encouraging everyone to "Go for 2" as a way to grow, learn, and deepen our faith. Our theme for April is "2-gather," aka "Bring a Friend." St. Mark's has so many things happening in April. It's probably even busier than December. While you are always encouraged to invite people to any of our fabulous Sunday or Wednesday worship services, during Holy Week, you will have many other opportunities to invite friends: Holy Thursday, a Good Friday drama, Holy Saturday, or be one of the first to greet the risen Christ at our Sunrise Service. And you know all of our Easter morning services will be fantastic. Plus, we're sure you have a friend or two who loves pancakes. Invite them!



ner too, so invite them to the Food Truck Café on Friday night April 7. Do you know a kid who likes cotton candy? Try ours at the Community Easter Event on Saturday the April 8. We also have a Prayer Bead Workshop and a service project that same day. On April 23 we are hosting another meal packing day, where we take over Fellowship Hall and pack 10,000 meals for the hungry. Invite some people to help with this fun service project. Maybe you have a friend who would enjoy a short, spiritual hike, called the Way of the Cross, around the Meditation Gardens. There are so many different ways to invite people to come "2-gather." We're sure we've left a lot off the list, like the musical cantata or the book club. How will you "Go for 2," and invite someone to church this April?

Christian Formation Team
Rachel, Kim, and Greg

Speaking of food, those same friends probably like din-

Worship Watch



Easter flowers will fill the altar on Easter Sunday. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of the flowers, you will find a form inserted in this edition of the *Messenger*. The deadline is next Monday, April 10.

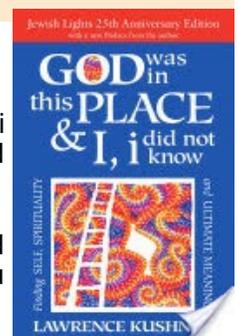
The Flower Cross will be out in the courtyard on Easter Sunday. Everyone is invited to bring a single flower or several flowers to decorate the cross. Gradually, as the morning progresses the cross is covered with flowers and transformed into a beautiful symbol of Easter. (The cross makes a great photo op, so feel free to take pictures.)

Volunteers are needed to welcome visitors to St. Mark's on Easter Sunday. We would like to have these greeters stationed at both the north and south entrances to the north patio leading to the sanctuary before the 8:15 service and before and after the 9:45 service. Contact Kandy in the office (297-2062) or Dana Bugbee (See Directory) to volunteer.

Christian Believers Book Study - Friday, April 28

Join us at 9:30 a.m., in the Library, to discuss *God was in this Place & I, I did not know* by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner. The study is open to everybody, we just ask that you have read the book and are willing to share your thoughts about it.

Facilitated by Susan Gerstad and Sherri Lennarson. Register at the Adult Spiritual Growth board or online at www.umcstmarks.org. The book is available at local and online bookstores. If you need childcare, contact Greg (greg@umcstmarks.org) and we will try to arrange it.



In a daring blend of scholarship and imagination, psychology and history, Rabbi Kushner gathers an inspiring range of interpretations of Genesis 28:16 given by sages, from Shmuel bar Nachmani in third-century Palestine to Hannah Rachel Werbermacher of Ludomir who lived in Poland two hundred years ago. Through a fascinating new literary genre and Kushner's creative reconstruction of the teachers' lives and times, we enter the study halls and sit at the feet of these spiritual masters to learn what each discovered about God's Self and ourselves as they ascend and descend Jacob's ladder.

In this illuminating journey—celebrated in this special 25th anniversary edition with a new preface by the author—our spiritual guides ask and answer the fundamental questions of human experience: Who am I? Who is God? What is God's role in history? What is the nature of evil? How should I relate to God and other people? Could the universe really have a self?

Our next book to be studied is:

May 26, 2107 - *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha & Mohammed Cross the Road?* by Brian McLaren



Socializing Our Seniors

The Next SOS luncheon will be in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 13, at 11:30 a.m. Our menu will be spaghetti, salad, crusty, Italian garlic cheese bread, and yummy brownies for dessert. As always, lunch will be catered by Copper Creek Cookies.

The cost for the luncheon is \$8.00. Checks should be made out to St. Mark's UMC, with "SOS Lunch" written on the memo line. Please send your reservation to Vicki Berglund (See Directory) no later than Sunday, April 9. A sign-up table will be in the courtyard between services this Sunday, April 9.

The program speaker will be a volunteer from Golder Ranch Fire Station. They will share information about insuring that emergency personnel can get to you if you call. There is a secure lock box for a key that only fire and police units can access.

Spring "Exploring Membership" Class

Have you been wanting to know more about this terrific church? Are you considering membership at St. Mark's? Would you like to become better acquainted with our staff and meet more fellow worshipers? If so, you are warmly invited to our next "Exploring Membership Class." This class will consist of four sessions and will take place in the church Library on Wednesday evenings, April 19 and 26, and May 3 and 10 – from 6:30 until 8:00 p.m. Childcare will be available for those who request it. If you wish, you may come to Fellowship Hall for a light dinner served at Soul Station at 5:45. (Having checked the "Wish to Join" box on the registration pad is not the same as actual class registration.) You may sign up on Sundays at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board in the courtyard, online at info@umcstmarks.org, or call Janie in the church office (297-2062). The study is called "Exploring Membership" intentionally – the decision of whether or not to join at the end of the class is entirely your own.



St. Mark's Meets Apportionment Obligation

St. Mark's is fortunate to be part of a connectional church, and apportionments are the local financial commitment we make to the greater United Methodist Church. The amount is calculated by the Desert Southwest Conference using a formula based on a church's membership and operating budget actual expenses. The funds are used to support mission infrastructures, administration, pensions, ministry education and so much more.



per member. St. Mark's is proud to acknowledge that for 60 years, we have paid 100% of our apportionments. Centered, is a copy of our Certificate of Appreciation from Bishop Hoshibata for 2016, which is "Presented to St. Mark's United Methodist Church for faithful participation in the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church through generous support of the apportionments extending love and grace in the name of Jesus Christ." Thank

you, St. Mark's, for your continued financial support!
Ruth Kester, Bookkeeper

The total amount St. Mark's has been asked to pay for 2017 is \$179,157, which is approximately \$181

A Note from St. Mark's Prayer Group

Please know that we, members of the Prayer Group, feel blessed to pray for you, and that we come together to offer prayers on your behalf and for your loved ones. We are committed to being there for you. We hope that you are able to find comfort in knowing that your requests will always be lovingly honored in a timely manner. Requests can be submitted via email to prayerchain@umcstmarks.org, by filling out a green pew card on Sunday mornings, or by calling the church office if needed.



St. Mark's United Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday evening, April 18, instead of our regular time on the second Tuesday morning of the month. **Please note the new date, place, and time.** Come to Rooms 17/18 for light refreshments at 6:30 p.m., and our program begins at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Charles Wise, and other members of St. Mark's Christian Persecution Task Force, will

provide the program. All women and men of St. Mark's are invited. We will learn about persecution, kidnapping, and murder that Christians in many countries have to deal with. We have asked Charles to provide some specific action steps that we can take to support the Christians being persecuted, and their families. Please join us. Childcare during the meeting, can be requested in the church office (297-2062) on or before Friday, April 14. If you have questions or need a ride, contact President Virginia Tupper (gjnr3636@gmail.com) or leave a message in the church office, and someone will call you back.

Grace Circle (St. Mark's United Methodist Women's hands-on mission group) will meet Tuesday morning, April 18, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Rooms 17/18. We will pack selected school items in the cloth Summer School bags that Grace Circle and Gail Blevins have made throughout the year. (NOTE: St. Mark's United Methodist Women



voted to purchase pencils, sharpeners, erasers, crayons, etc., for these bags, since Nash Elementary School did not have funds available for this purpose this year.) We will also put together UMCOR Sewing Kits. UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief. Each sewing kit includes: three yards of cotton or cotton blend fabric, one pair of scissors, one package of hand needles, one medium or large size spool of thread, buttons that are 5/8 inch or larger size (leave the buttons on the card, or tie them together). Please bring what you have available and/or can buy/bring easily. You can also make a monetary donation, and we will purchase whatever items are needed to complete the sewing kits. If you have questions, con-

tact Kay Hayworth (See Directory) or leave a message in the church office and Kay will call you back.

We hope lots of St. Mark's women registered to attend the Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women's **Spiritual Growth Retreat**, at the Redemptorist Renewal Center, Tucson (Picture Rocks area). Pastor Tammy is the retreat leader; theme will be "Called and Gifted." Registration deadline was Saturday, April 1. If you intended to register, and want to see if there is still room for you to participate, contact Alberta Farnsworth (See Directory).



For many men, the first step to getting off the streets is connecting to the **Primavera Men's Shelter**, where they will find immediate relief and shelter as they recover from economic crisis. The shelter depends on churches, like St. Mark's, to help provide nutritious meals for the men. We serve dinner on the second and fifth Saturdays of each month. Many groups and families in our church have experienced the joy and satisfaction of preparing and serving a meal to the men at the shelter. The Missions Committee can reimburse the cost of the meal, but several groups have chosen to donate the ingredients.

There are several open dates on the calendar (May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9) when these men are depending on us to provide dinner. Please consider helping. Contact the church office (297-2062) for more information.

MISSIONS CORNER

From the Christian Persecution Task Force— An Update on India

Distributing Bibles in India through *Voice of the Martyrs* – A VOM worker tells a story of a believer who carried a single Bible deep into a forested region of southwestern India. Today, 70 percent of those living in a Hindu village there have accepted Christ. While this is just one example of God's word reaching remote parts of India and bearing fruit, other VOM workers regularly hear how the gospel is changing lives in the world's largest Hindu nation. That is why they do whatever it takes to get Bibles into the hands of new believers. They do this despite pressure from the Indian government and an active right-wing Hindu nationalist group, the RSS, who seeks to uphold Indian ways and culture. Extreme heat and challenging terrain do not deter these VOM workers from delivering God's word, often by canoes and camels. As one worker stated, "It is only by our Almighty God's grace and protection that we are able to distribute Bibles all over south India."

Please pray for the Christians of India:

Father in Heaven, please bless the Christians of India who strive to know about you and come closer to Christ. Please support those who are reaching out to them with Bibles to aid them in their faith journey.

For more information contact christianpersecutiontaskforce@gmail.com



Adult Mission Trip 2016 – San Diego and Tijuana

At the end of September last year, St. Mark's sent 11 people to San Diego on our Adult Mission Trip. Sierra Service Project (SSP) helped us plan the trip. SSP is very good at incorporating learning experiences into mission trips. Our learning experience was about refugees and border issues.

Learning about an issue while you are helping in some small way to alleviate the problem gives the work greater meaning. Using our hands along with our hearts and minds helps me, personally, feel closer to God.

Part of our work was at an old church that is hosting refugees. They just had some of the carpets replaced upstairs, and there was too much to do before the refugees returned in a couple days. They had been moved to a different, temporary shelter. The lady in charge was a complete basket-case from stress and worry. Our group was able to move furniture back to the proper rooms, carry boxes down to the basement, restock the food pantry (which is used by the refugees), clean up a room full of broken tiles, and start clearing out the next area that will be re-carpeted. Everything we did at that church felt like we were helping support the refugees, even if we didn't get to meet the ones who would be coming...

You can find a continuation of this article and more photos at
<http://www.umcstmarks.org/pdf/adultmissionstrip2016w.pdf>

VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED

TMM Family Services Inc. (formerly Tucson Metropolitan Ministries) provides quality housing and support services to children, families and seniors in need. TMM is seeking volunteer tutors for their Learning Center. Volunteer tutors help children with homework, basic math and reading skills. Sometimes this involves simply reading to - or being read to - by the children. The Learning Center is open Monday-Friday, 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. and is located at 1550 N. Country Club Road. Once certified, a volunteer sets her/his own hours with the Learning Center Coordinator. So, a volunteer can help every day, once a week or even for an hour at a time – whatever the volunteer is comfortable with. Staff is always present during tutoring, giving assistance and helping all volunteers! If you are interested, all you have to do is go through a certification process that includes fingerprinting and a background check at no cost to you. Questions? Call me for more information – Ruth Bowman (520-237-3981) after 7:00 p.m. any night, or contact Sandra McNary, TMM Volunteer Coordinator directly (520-322-9557 ext. 218 or SMCNary@tmmfs.org).



Easter Flowers

The Worship Committee will be placing spring flowers and lilies in the sanctuary and outside in the courtyard on Easter Sunday. If you would like to contribute toward these flowers in honor or in memory of someone, please complete the form below, and place it in the offering plate along with your check (made payable to St. Mark's UMC with "Easter flowers" on the memo line), or you can bring/mail the form to the church office.



The suggested donation of \$16 will go toward the Easter flower purchase. The difference between the cost of the flowers and the money donated goes into our Flower Fund. Traditionally, the Worship Committee has used the Flower Fund money to purchase actual items that charities have needed to continue helping the people they serve. So far this year, the Flower Fund has helped purchase supplies to repair the turf on our own ECC's playground. Since the ECC offers affordable childcare to young families in northwest Tucson, we felt helping them make improvements fulfills one of St. Mark's identified priorities...to reach out to younger people. The Worship Committee will continue to support charitable purchases with the Flower Fund money throughout 2017.

If you would like your honorarium or memorial listed in the Easter bulletin, please return this form by Monday, April 10th. The flowers can be picked up after the 11:15 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, or on Tuesday, April 18th (the church office will be closed on Monday, April 17th). The remaining flowers will start to be delivered to the homebound on Wednesday, April 19th.

✂

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Please PRINT.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

I am contributing \$ _____ toward the purchase of Easter flowers for the sanctuary and outside.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

.....

✂



ECC News

We are pleased to have My Gym-Children's Fitness Center bringing their mobile gym to St. Mark's ECC. The children are building their teamwork, following directions, and gross motor skills through fun physical activities.

(See upcoming events insert for Summer Camp dates.)

**HAVE YOU
TALKED
TO GOD
TODAY?**

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS...

In hospital:

Dave Webster



In rehab or care facilities:

Than Brademas, Donald Chester, Patricia Keele, Harold Mull, Marla Mutschler, Sue Robinson, Howard Russell, Yvonne Yare

Undergoing treatment at home:

Jude Anderson, Ellen Beene, Michael Campbell, Judy Drescher, Darrel Frazer, Tiffany Guerette, Megan Krzmarzick, Karen

Linebarier, Dell Long, Judy Mitzimberg, Marla Mutschler, Jim Neessen, Cecil Roberts, Bob Ross, Connie White

Recovering at home:

Susan Kelley, Bill Duryee

WE OFFER OUR CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO...

- ♥ **Sandi and Tim Heilman, Kelley (Heilman) Gruca and family**, upon the loss of Karlyn.
- ♥ **Josh and Ginny Smith and family**, upon the loss of baby Lucas.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY...

Please keep these people in your prayers. Email additions or updates to messenger@umcstmarks.org.

Hank Bautzmann, son of Nancy Bautzmann

Jon Chytka, nephew of Roger and Donna Severson

Zachary Dojaquez, grandson of Roger and Donna Severson

Brandonn Eto, close friend of Zirnheld/Compernelle family

Rob Eubank, son of David and Johanna Eubank

Mike Freeman, son of Ken and Ann Freeman

Patrick Harris, grandson of Marilyn Vaughn

Greg Haynes, son of Bob and Melinda Haynes

Matthew Hughey, son of Juliee and Billy Morrison and grandson of Joyce Flick

Rachel Kester, daughter of Don and Ruth Kester

Travis Kroll, son-in-law of Becky Strain

Adam Laurie, son of Ingrid Christensen

Chad Long, grandson of Pat Long

Mark Joseph Maver, son of Seymour and Marcia Maver

Joshua Miller, grandson of Ginny Johnson

Jake Newton, son of Robert and Cheri Newton

John O'Regan, husband of Ashley O'Regan and grandson-in-law of Janet Krug

Brian Osborn, pastor in the Desert Southwest Conference

William Putt, son of Harold and Susan Putt

Joshua Ruth, son-in-law of Marjie Walp

Adam Seia, son of David and Vonda Seia

Jason Smith, grandson of Jerry and Judy Smith

Alex Snow, brother of Shelley Shelton

Clint Staschke, son-in-law of Cliff and June Young

Michael and Karisa Szczygiel, daughter and son-in-law of Joyce Flick

Timothy Trexler, great-nephew of Gail Blevins

Brianna Walker, granddaughter of Barbara Fradenburgh; niece of John Fradenburgh

Jeff Welsh, grandson of Roger and Donna Severson



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Reflections

As we head toward Holy Week and Easter, I want to share some “thanks” to those who have enriched our lives at St. Mark’s over the last few weeks. I know I’m going to miss someone in this article, so please know that I’m grateful to all those who have taught classes, planned for and led worship, cared for people through calls and visits, and so much more.

A big thanks goes to all those who helped St. Mark’s celebrate our 60th Anniversary the weekend of March 18-19 in such style. Gratitude goes to the coordinating committee led by Ruth Kester, which included Sandi Heilman, Janie Towne, Virginia Tupper, Kathy Deason, Sondra Franks, Sherri Lennarson, and Mark Hrabe. For the party on March 18, UMW prepared great food, Church Growth decorated beautifully, Grace Multiplied from St. Paul’s provided lively music, Tom Ellis and the Celebration Singers worked tirelessly to provide set up and clean up, others worked to contact past pastors, who added to our program, and lots of people worked ahead of time to sell tickets and promote the weekend. For Sunday, March 19, we had such a joyous time of worship, with brass, a video, and general celebration. All that doesn’t even include the work of Church Growth to develop our commemorative calendar, which is a real treasure.

Our Worship Committee and Artists’ Group have led us through the artistry on our altar, as we’ve moved from the brokenness of a pile of dull rags, through the healing stories of Jesus, toward the beauty of a woven tapestry. This represents the healing that Jesus does in our lives, sometimes even when we don’t know it.

Thanks to our Lay Visitation Team who visit and care for people, which has been especially valuable during the weeks that Pastor Tammy was gone, and she and I were ill.

Our deepest thanks goes to Pastor Evy, who is always willing to offer her great skills and great care. Finally, thanks to our excellent staff, who work together to make all sorts of things happen, and do so with grace and Christ’s love.

Now we are on the brink of Holy Week, and the celebration of Easter. I wish you God’s blessings as we worship and reflect next week, and as we gather on Easter to deeply know the power of Jesus’ new life, long ago and still today.

*Blessings,
Sharon*