

# Messenger

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

St. Mark's  
United Methodist

## Pumpkins Arrive Oct. 13

Whether you are new to St. Mark's, or a seasoned Pumpkin Patch veteran, you can't help but be amazed at the sea of orange around here in October.



A semi-tractor trailer load, full of pumpkins, will pull into the south parking lot on Saturday, Oct. 13. If you're available around 3:00 p.m., come on out and help pass the little orange money makers down a line of friends until the truck is empty. Come-and-go help is also welcomed. Refreshments will be available. You may want to bring gloves, a water bottle, and sunscreen.

Each year, this experience proves that a little work is amply rewarded with lots of fun and fellowship! There will be a wide variety of sizes and prices to choose from, so the sooner you shop, the better the pumpkin selection! Tell your friends, or better yet, bring them along!

Again this year, the youth are looking for adult volunteers who are available during the day to staff the patch until school is out. If you can sign up for a two-hour shift (or several of them!) between October 14 and 31, please see the page on SignUp Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094aaba623abf85-2018>. You can also contact the front office, or sign-up at the Pumpkin Patch. Profits from the project go to fund our Youth Missions (Sierra Service Project), support retreats, and support our local service projects.

## Musical Musings

On **Sunday, Oct. 28** at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, Lira Makarova and Renée Bond will join together for a piano/flute concert. Both piano solos and piano/flute duets will be presented. There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the concert.



## Fall Festival

It's that time of year again! Pumpkin Spice everything, our amazing pumpkin patch and of course Trunk or Treat! The Family Ministries committee is hosting another fall festival and Trunk or Treat and invite our entire church family to join us for a potluck and some fun fall activities on Oct. 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The main course and drinks are provided, please bring a side dish to share. There will be crafts and games for the kids to play. Don't forget your camera, we always have a fun photo op!

### Trunk or Treat!

At 7:00 p.m., we will open our parking lot to the whole community to enjoy a safe trick or treating alternative. Trunk or Treat will be held in the north parking lot, come early for a good spot! It is so much fun to decorate a trunk, pull out a lawn chair and see all of the fun, creative costumes. You do NOT want to miss this. Be sure to sign up soon to secure your parking space! Just use the link from our website, to register at SignUp Genius, or contact Rachel in the church office ([rachel@umcstmarks.org](mailto:rachel@umcstmarks.org)). SignUp Genius Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094aaba623abf85-trunk>



## When Things Go Wrong— Don't Go with Them

Come, learn and laugh with Kathleen Kirk, life and communication coach, who will be at St. Mark's Nov. 10, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



The holidays are coming and most of us know that stress abounds and disagreements in families seem to escalate. How can the pattern be different this year? Come and learn from Kathleen the power of the pause, how not to be trapped into arguing, and to communicate in healthy ways that will reduce your stress and make the holidays filled with more joy.

## **Stewardship Campaign—Our Hands, God's Work. Responding in Faith!**

When our son was born fifty some years ago the term "Down Syndrome" was not in use. Instead, these individuals were referred to by a reference to their general appearance and their anticipated level of intelligence. The doctor, the hospital administration, and the social worker recommended we not see, not hold, not name, and not take our son home. They recommended we leave him with the hospital and they would care for him until they could find an institution that would take him. I was angry with the doctor, with the hospital, and angry with God. We took Chris home. The first few years were difficult.

God was not part of my life for the next twenty years. Then, slowly, I began to see God's love for my son. During the fifty-one years of Chris' life we encountered many hands doing God's work. Chris attended school at Kirk Center until he was twenty-one. This school for special needs children was staffed with recent graduates with degrees in Special Education. They taught him to read and write. They worked with him to develop social skills as well as job skills. They loved him and he loved them. At twenty-one his public education ended. He was fortunate to be admitted to St. Coletta's adult residential program located on seven hundred acres of southern Wisconsin farmland. This facility was run by the Sisters of St. Frances; it was a vocation for them. He bloomed in this community of his peers. When we brought him home for a week or two at the holidays, he was always anxious to return to St. Coletta's.

After fifteen years, we decided to move him closer to our home outside Chicago. We were able to place Chris in a group home affiliated with Clearbrook. Even better, his best friend from grade school was his roommate. We

know he loved the staff and the other residents. If we had him home for a weekend, by Sunday noon he would say, "I go home now, back to my guys." When Chris was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Dr. Chicoine worked with us and Clearbrook to keep him in the group home as long as possible. (Twenty years prior Dr. Chicoine had given up his family practice to start the Adult Down Syndrome Clinic.)

Our Hands, God's Work.  
Responding in Faith!



When Chris was no longer able to live in the group home, Dr. Chicoine told us about the Park Ridge Care Center, one of maybe half-a-dozen nursing homes in the country that would take developmentally disabled individuals. Chris lived there until his death in September, 2015. At the funeral for Chris, staff from Clearbrook, the Adult Down Syndrome Center, and from Park Ridge Care Center cried with me. It made me think of the verse from Matthew 25:40, "When you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me."

I cannot begin to thank all those individuals who did God's work during Chris' life. Not only did they help my son, they helped me ask God to come back into my life. As part of the Stewardship Campaign, we will hear from members of our congregation connecting their faith with their work. My work place is now St. Mark's, and God's love has restored my faith. I give of my time and my finances to help keep St. Mark's be strong and able to carry God's message into the community and into the world. Please join me in making this Stewardship Campaign successful: Our Hands, God's Work. Responding in Faith!

**Bill Zermuehlen**  
**Finance Committee Member**

## **Christmas Wreaths on Sale!**

### **Early Childhood Center Fund-raiser**

On Sunday, Oct. 14 and 21, the ECC will sell Mickman Christmas wreaths between services. Order forms are also available in the preschool office during the week. Orders are due by Nov. 2 and wreaths will be delivered to St. Mark's the first week of December. Wreaths can also be shipped to family and friends!

Proceeds from this fund-raiser will help pay for the new shade structure for the playground sandbox.



# Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

## Fruit of the Spirit

Sundays, 11:00 a.m., began Oct. 7, (9 weeks), Rm 23

Led by Margaret Synhorst

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. To be spiritually mature is to show the fruit of the Spirit of Christ in our lives. These Bible studies from Old and New Testament passages highlight each quality and inspire us to nurture the Spirit's fruit in our lives. Each week is a complete study, so if you missed the first one, don't hesitate to join us this next week.

## Praying the Psalms

Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. began Oct. 9, (4 weeks), Med.Rm

Led by Rev, Judy Boroto

Discover the richness of the Psalms. Learn to pray into and through them. Let the gamut of your emotions place you closer to God. Experience telling God how you feel. Experiment with writing your own Psalm. No prior Bible study is necessary. If you missed the first week, come anyway. The class is still open to new participants.

## The Gospel of Mark

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., began Oct. 4, (5 weeks)

Barnes-Noble - Led by Rev. Evy McDonald

Explore the first Gospel written. What does this account tell us about the life of Jesus and the basis of our Christian faith? No prior Bible study is necessary.

## Labyrinth

Saturday, 9:00 a.m., Oct. 20, Labyrinth

Led by Ruth Machtley

Introduction to the history of the labyrinth and a guided practice. Rediscover this ancient way of praying. It's a mini-pilgrimage to seek a way of communicating with God. We will meet at the labyrinth.

## Wesleyan Living

Sundays, 9:45 a.m., Begins Oct. 21, (5 weeks), Library

Led by Margaret Synhorst

Renew your passion and discover deeper commitment to God in just 21 days. In The Wesley Challenge, individuals will work through twenty-one questions that will engage their physical, spiritual, and emotional lives and their relationship with God and others. Then once a week, the group will come together and discuss their experiences, ask questions, and engage in activities to help inspire

them to a new kind of commitment—one that is more authentic, vulnerable, and soul-shaping. It's only three weeks! Come pick up your book on Oct. 28, then we will meet on Sundays Nov. 4, 11, and 18 at 9:45 a.m. in the Library. Come join us!

## United Methodist Social Principles

Mondays, 6:30 p.m., (3 weeks), begins Nov. 12,

Fellowship Hall - Led by Jim Nibbelink

Right from its beginning, our church has been closely associated with social justice. At the founding conference in 1784, the new denomination adopted a policy strongly condemning slavery. Ever since, the people called Methodist have been sensitive to the needs of the societies around us and finding ways to respond. We believe that it's not possible to separate service to God from service to God's people.

Our Social Principles have changed, evolved, ebbed and flowed over the years, always focused on the well-being of God's creation. We'll explore the current version of the Social Principles on three Monday evenings beginning on Nov. 12. Come and find out how our principles have kept up with new and emerging issues like genetic engineering while always standing with the poor and disadvantaged in our society. The Social Principles are just that, principles, and not intended to be a list of rules. Some may resonate with you, while others may make you wonder. Still others may leave you cold, questioning why that topic even is mentioned. The Social Principles are a product of our General Conference which convenes every four years, helping to ensure that each edition deals with current issues.

Discover how The United Methodist Church recommends that we serve with God's people all around the world! We'll review scriptures relevant to each topic and discuss how we and our congregation might respond to what we find, so bring your Bible! Sign up online or in the courtyard. For questions, contact Jim Nibbelink (see directory).

## Open Minds Book Club

The Open Minds Book Club will meet again on Oct. 26, at 9:30 a.m. in the Library. We are reading about resistance to systems against Christian beliefs. There are three choices; choose ONE book for the discussion. **Zealot** (Azlan), **Resistance** (Biggers), or **Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed** (Hallie). When is it necessary for Christians to resist? How does a Christian resist? Come join us! If you have questions, please contact Jane or Jerry Bartow (see directory).

## Ready, Set, SHOP!

St. Mark's Fall Logo Shop will be open for business on Sunday mornings, Oct. 21 and 28 between services in the courtyard.



We only take orders for our great shirts and caps twice a year—so you won't want to miss the chance to stock up.

Also, on sale will be our "stocked inventory" items! (also available "anytime" online or from the church office). We're sure you'll want to grab the clear-plastic sports utility tote, (perfect for stadium-entry events or everyday use), sturdy utility totes, a hot/cold carrier, plus grocery and lunch bags. Lots of these items make great holiday gifts, plan ahead and stock up! Payment is due at time of purchase/order, so please come prepared to support St. Mark's with our great Logo Shop products!

## Reflections from the Retreat

**Life is Prayer, Developing an Ongoing Conversation with God.** Twenty-five participants and three leaders gathered at the Redemptorist Renewal Center on Saturday, Sept. 29, for "a day away," some quiet time in the desert. Rev. Roger Pierce and Rev. Judy Boroto led the group (with music by Susan Tjossem) through a variety of topics meant to explore a much wider scope of prayer. There was music, scripture, presentation, discussion, reflection, experiential activities and listening for what the Spirit might have to say to us. We also moved beyond "conversation" with God to discuss living out our prayers in our daily lives. How do we help make some of our prayers come to fruition?



Here are just a few comments from those who attended.

**Thank you** for a wonderful day! I appreciate the ways that you both invited us into a sacred space, but with gentleness, lightness, humor, and thoughtfulness. You are a good team!! It was a perfect way for me to spend the day.

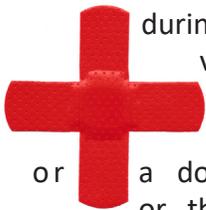
**I want to thank you** again for organizing and leading the Life is Prayer retreat last Saturday. The location and facilities were perfectly suited for a retreat of that nature. I enjoyed exploring the grounds and found the Stations of the Cross conducive to personal reflection during the morning free time. I liked the way you divided your presentations, both of which were meaningful, thought-provoking and helpful in different ways. Beginning the day with worship helped to center me and open my mind for what was to follow. And I liked the fellowship we experienced during breaks and lunch. In short, it was a wonderful experience—well done!

**Come be a part of The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.** We will gather on Sunday, Oct. 21, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to watch the movie, eat pizza and make our plans. Rehearsals will be Sunday afternoons 12:30-2:30 p.m. through most of November. Dress rehearsal will be Thursday, Dec. 6 and our performance is on Friday December 7, at 7:00 p.m. What a great way to help people remember what Christmas is all about. See you there!

**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!**

## Medical and Safety Volunteers Needed

We had a medical situation occur on Sept. 30 at the 9:15 a.m. service. Our newly organized medical and safety volunteers responded in a prompt, professional manner. However, we are in need of additional medical and safety volunteers for the 8:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. If a medical situation occurred during one of these services, we may not have volunteers in attendance to respond as we do in the 9:15 a.m. service. If you are certified in CPR and first aid, a nurse or a doctor, a member of law enforcement or the military and could volunteer on a Sunday morning, please contact Pastor Evy at [evy@umcstmarks.org](mailto:evy@umcstmarks.org) to see how to sign up or obtain additional information.



## Pray For Peace

The Church and Society ministry would like to invite you to the ongoing gathering to pray for peace in our broken, hurting world. Praying Together for Peace:

- **Wed., Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m.**  
**St. Andrew's Episcopal, 545 S 5th Ave.**
- **Wed., Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Temple Emanuel El, 225 N Country Club**



# Multi-site Memorandum

As a new delegate to Annual Conference in 2016 I was excited by the speaker, Jim Griffith, at that year's "Day of Learning." His topic was "How to Reach New People." I realized that St. Mark's had already embodied some of what he talked about in our Identified Priorities, in particular bringing Christ to the world, by taking church out into the world. But I wanted to know more. So I attended the follow-up workshop, along with Martha Lundgren, to find out the details. After that workshop, I wanted to help St. Mark's implement more of the key strategies to reach new people.

At about the same time, several people from St. Mark's attended a Multi-site workshop. Pastor Sharon decided to combine people who attended that workshop with those who attended the Reaching New People. I think that was a good decision because in many areas

the work is complementary. So, like Brenda, looking back in hindsight, I realized that I had been "sucked in" but excited about the work we are doing.

Having skills in Database Management, one of the major tasks I took on was to utilize the program, MissionInsite, that the conference has provided to do demographic work about possible locations for a second site. The first step was to get St. Mark's member location information into the new program. Then we could make use of the demographic tools to match up the demographics of various areas with the demographics, values and lifestyles of our members. The program uses census demographic and lifestyle data along with surveys they have done on religious preferences and values. With this program we were able to find areas where the demographics matched the "DNA" of St. Mark's. By serving in a community whose DNA matches



ours, we will be better able to utilize our current strengths without having to develop new ones. As a result of this demographic analysis, the best match to St. Mark's was found north of us, in the area around Tangerine and Dove Mountain. In addition, the analysis showed this to be a fast-growing neighborhood which is currently underserved by churches.

Going forward, the Multi-site Team will be discerning the type of worship and other programs that will take place at this new site. This is where the concepts from the "How to Reach New People" workshop will be invaluable. I am excited to see where God is leading St. Mark's as we explore starting a second site north of us.

**Mark Hrabe**  
**Member, Multi-site Team**

## **READINESS 360 SURVEY—We Need Your Feedback**

Last Sunday many of you heard Pastor Sharon invite us to complete an online survey called **Readiness 360** that will help the Multi-site Team know what you think and feel about what we, the congregation at St. Mark's, do today and what we might become and do in the future. Many of you also received an email with instructions on how to complete the survey. Well, the rest of us that didn't receive the email are going to have to do it the hard way!

**1. Please go to: <http://app.readiness360.org/survey/login>.** (Those of you who receive the **Messenger** electronically should be able to click on the link; the rest of us who still get paper copies will have to enter the address in your browser.)

**2. Copy and paste the following survey code into the box: 5681383749** (There is also a space for a pin number. You do not need a pin number. When you start the survey, it will ask for an email address. You will then be sent a pin number in case you are unable to finish the survey in one sitting and need to go back to it.)

**3. Please answer all questions candidly. Your answers are anonymous!**

If you have problems with the survey, contact Brenda Hunter (see directory).

On behalf of the Multi-Site Team, I want to tell you how much we appreciate the time you are taking to help us. As we take these first steps to creating a second St. Mark's worship site, it is important that we understand how you, our fellow congregants, feel about this task. The survey is one way for us to learn about you. We will be sharing what we have learned at the completion of the survey. Thanks again!

**Brenda Hunter, Cochair Multi-site Team**

## An Update on The INN

GOOD NEWS! If you'd like to contribute items, but don't look forward to delivering it to First UMC, you may buy on our AMAZON'S WISH LIST-the INN PROJECT page at <https://goo.gl/samWZ4>. This website will deliver you right to our page where you can see what we need, you select a quantity and see the price. Your order will be delivered to Catalina UMC who will open and sort the orders. What could be better? Of course, you can change the delivery address and bring it yourself.

I will continue to check the church office for smaller, dropped-off items and take them for you. The INN appreciates all contributions, regardless of their form: volunteer work, items, money and always prayer.

**Blessings, Kathie Barrett**

## UMW Retreat - October 20

St. Mark's United Methodist Women will be hosting a retreat on Saturday, October 20, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald will present the program "**Assessing Your Inner Wisdom Through Collages of the Soul**". This program is open to all. A light lunch will be provided.

To register, contact Virginia Tupper (520-820-4119 or [ginr3636@gmail.com](mailto:ginr3636@gmail.com)). You may also leave a completed registration form in the UMW mailbox (There are blank registration forms in the UMW mailbox).

## PRAYER CORNER

We are a praying community at St. Mark's. Besides Sunday worship, you may submit prayer requests by email to [prayerchain@umcstmarks.org](mailto:prayerchain@umcstmarks.org) or from our website [www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org). Also, visit our Prayer Room on campus and leave a prayer on our prayer wall.

Ron Barth	Keith & Mary Ann Glazier	Hazel Roberts
Gail Blevins	Breanne Hallam	Howard & Gina Russell
Joe Brown	Carolyn Hanna	Marian Shultis
Jared Bowman & family	David & Floretta Harrington	Carol Underwood
Michael Campbell	Patricia Keele	Jackie Vickers
Donald Chester	Brent & Karen Linebarier	Dave & Jan Webster
Tom DeShong	Wanda & Ray Loughney	Connie White
Judy Drescher	Jean Ogle	Lindsay Williams

### CONDOLENCES:

Our sympathy and prayers are with Than Brademas on the death of her son, Jeff Brademas, in Africa last week.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE:

A memorial service for Liz Boxler will be held on Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary, with a reception following in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

## LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Please keep these people in your prayers.  
Email additions or updates to [messenger@umcstmarks.org](mailto:messenger@umcstmarks.org).



**Hank Bautzmann**, son of Nancy Bautzmann  
**Jon Chytka**, nephew of Donna Severson  
**Zachary Dojaquez**, grandson of Donna Severson  
**Patrick Emmett**, son of Julie Wiens  
**Mike Freeman**, son of Ken & Ann Freeman  
**Garrett Geer**, grandson of Ellen Wise  
**Matthew Hughey**, son of Juliee & Billy Morrison and grandson of Joyce Flick  
**Patrick Harris**, grandson of Marilyn Vaughn  
**Rachel Kester**, daughter of Don & Ruth Kester  
**Chad Long**, grandson of Pat Long

**Jake Newton**, son of Robert & Cheri Newton  
**John O'Regan**, husband of Ashley O'Regan and grandson-in-law of Janet Krug  
**Brian Osborn**, pastor in the DSW Conference  
**William Putt**, son of Harold & Susan Putt  
**Geoffrey Shafe**, grandson of Mary Langemeier  
**Jason Smith**, grandson of Jerry & Judy Smith  
**Clint Staschke**, son-in-law of Cliff & June Young  
**Michael and Karisa Szczygiel**, daughter and son-in-law of Joyce Flick  
**Brianna Walker**, granddaughter of Barbara Fradenburgh; niece of Joan Fradenburgh

# WASS UP?

October 9, 2018

Volume 19, Issue 20



## UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

**October 13, 2018—**

**3:00— PUMPKINS ARRIVE !**

All youth, family, and friends needed to help unload truck



**October 14, 2018—**

**No Youth Group  
See Saturday**

**October 21, 2018—**

3:00 Youth Council  
4:00 – 6:00  
Mission Night  
Read to pets @ Animal Shelter

**October 28, 2018—**

3:00— SSP/Youth '19 Meeting  
4:00 - 6:00  
Middle School Field Day  
High School Spirit Walk



## Fun Filled Fellowship

Greetings Pre Teen's,  
Happy Fall School Break !

Don't forget, that your help is needed to unload the pumpkin truck on Saturday. Then, on Sunday, you can come to our program and "get crafty". What a great way to finish off your fall break!

Btw, the wonderful blankets you tied a couple of weeks ago, were blessed at Soul Station and delivered to the Inn Project.

Hope to see you all on Sunday.  
Blessings - Julie

**October 14th - Get crafty!**  
Glow-in-the-dark slime and pumpkin candy dish from flower pots.

**October 21st - Make "Apple Ring Donuts".** Games. Halloween Party plans. (Are your costumes ready?) Please talk to your parents about what kind of treat you would like to bring to share at the party.

**October 28th - HALLOWEEN PARTY!!**  
Come in your costume. Bring a treat to share (enough for 15 people) Halloween/Fall games and music.



Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf

a note from the

# YOUTH DIRECTOR

THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING! THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING! October 13 at 3:00, specifically. Everyone is needed to help unload the truck and work the patch.

Rachel reminded me of this fun fact: The first year that St. Mark's had a Pumpkin Patch was 1997. (Quick math tells you that's 21 years of pumpkins.)

I wasn't the Youth Director then, but I was a volunteer. My family unloaded the truck, and we all worked sales shifts.

The Pumpkin Patch has always been a church family affair. I'm sure your parents and siblings will help, but what you need to know is that your St. Mark's family also supports you by passing pumpkins and signing up for sales shifts. We are truly blessed.

Grace and peace,  
Kim

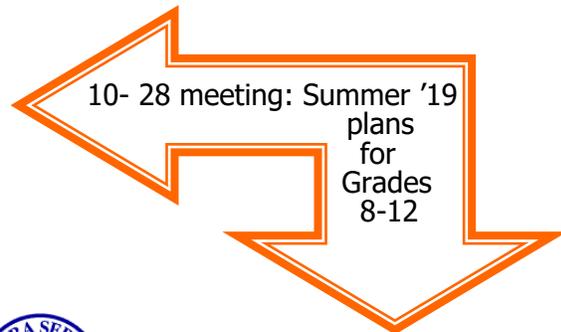
## Middle School Moments

Happy fall, y'all! This week, the weather really DID feel like fall, didn't it? I even got to wear long sleeves. So nice!

Fall has always meant pumpkins to me. When I was little, we roasted pumpkin seeds while we carved pumpkins. And my mom made pumpkin bread. Yum! And once I was in 8th grade, my youth group started selling pumpkins! I even was in the newspaper that year, working in the pumpkin patch! I'm pretty much famous now. Even though the picture isn't in the archive. Just trust me...I was totally famous!

I've always had so much fun in our pumpkin patch! It gets better every year. Don't forget to go online and sign up for a couple shifts this week! Or text me, I can sign you up!

See you Sunday,  
Rachel



Sierra Service Project

# Calendar Notes

## Thurs., October 11

9:00 a.m. Quilters, Rm 17/18  
4:00 p.m. Liz Boxler Memorial  
6:00 p.m. Disciple I, Rm 20  
6:00 p.m. Trustees, Conf. Rm  
6:00 p.m. Jesus In the Gospels, Rm 17/18  
6:30 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall  
6:30 p.m. Gospel of Mark, Barnes & Noble

## Fri., October 12

9:30 a.m. Heartworks, Rm 17/18  
7:30 p.m. Student Symposium of the  
American Choral Directors Assoc., Sanctuary

## Sat., October 13

3:00 p.m. Pumpkins Arrive!  
11:30 a.m. Exploring Membership Luncheon

## Sun., October 14

NEW MEMBERS JOINING DAY  
4:00 p.m. Preteens  
4:00 p.m. No Youth Group

## Mon., October 15

9:00 a.m. Ties that Bind, Rm 17/18  
9:15 a.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall  
4:00 p.m. Grief Support

## Wed., October 17

7:30 a.m. Marksmen, Coco's Restaurant  
Noon - **BULLETIN DEADLINE**  
5:45 p.m. Soul Station Dinner, Fellowship Hall  
6:15 p.m. Common Grounds Chat, Library



## St. Mark's Messenger

Published bi-weekly

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### Website:

[www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org)

### Senior Pastor:

Rev. Sharon Ragland

### Associate Pastors:

Stuart Salvatierra

Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald

### Sunday Worship:

8:15, 9:45, 11:15 a.m.

### Soul Station

Wednesday Night:

Dinner - 5:45 p.m.

Music/Programs

6:15-7:15 p.m.

## Dear Church Family ...



Alice and I would like to thank our St. Mark's family for all the prayers and get-well cards for my most recent trip to the hospital and rehab center. Also, for the sympathy cards for the loss of my younger brother. You truly are a blessing to us.

*Again Thanks, Pastor Joe Brown*

**Grace Circle** an active, hands-on mission group of the United Methodist Women, will meet on **Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 9:15 a.m.** for a short devotion then carpool to provide assistance to GAP Ministries. GAP Ministries cares for foster children in group homes, trains young people in culinary arts, shares food and basic need items to Southern Arizona non-profit organizations serving the needy, just to name a few programs. All women are invited to attend and do not have to be a member of St. Mark's UMW or our church to attend. This month we are going to bring some travel or full-sized toiletries to help their clients. Wear your comfortable clothing and shoes and we will return by noon. In November we will visit the INN. For any questions, please contact Ann Dyer (see directory).



## Courtyard Coffee Sales - Sunday October 21

St Mark's Agua Prieta Task Force will sell one pound bags of 100% Arabica, fair-trade, organic coffee on Sunday, October 21. All proceeds go to Cafe la Colonia, who produces this wonderful coffee. Cafe la Colonia is a small business run by members of the Fuente de Vida church in Agua Prieta, Mexico (across the border from Douglas, AZ). Fuente de Vida (Methodist) church has been a long-standing mission project of St Mark's and several other churches in the Desert Southwest Conference. Both Medium and Dark Roast (regular, decaf, ground or whole-bean coffee) is available for \$10/bag. Look for our table in the courtyard on Sunday, Oct. 21, or contact Robert Kittrell (see directory) if you have questions.



**Address Service Requested**

If you would like to receive the Messenger electronically, and discontinue your paper copy, submit a request to [messenger@umcstmarks.org](mailto:messenger@umcstmarks.org)

## Reflections

### ***“For with you is the fountain of life and in your light we see light.” Psalm 36:9***

That’s a good verse to commit to memory, isn’t it? When we put that verse on our minds and hearts, we have a constant reminder that with God we have life overflowing like a fountain. Whenever God’s light is present – worship, prayer, nature, conversation with friends, baptism, Holy Communion – we get to see and experience the warmth and guidance of that light.

At last night’s (October 8) annual Church Conference, God’s light was present. We got to be part of it, soaking in the ways that God is working at St. Mark’s through worship, missions, spiritual growth ministries for all ages, and most of all, through the people of St. Mark’s. We got to let God’s light surround and fill us, and celebrate the working of God in our church and the privilege of joining God in that work.

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Mark Conrad, reminded us that St. Mark’s strength and vitality gives us the responsibility to lead our district and conference in serving Christ. We get to show others the way. That is a great privilege and awesome task. We are entering the

time of year when lots of people and ministries take place at and around our campus and in the community.

Take a look around at St. Mark’s and give thanks to God. We give thanks for crowded pews and the sounds of children in worship. We give thanks for people who take the risk to share their witness of faith, in video and in person, so we can be inspired by them. We give thanks for leaders who give so generously of themselves, connecting their daily lives and faith and showing us the way. We give thanks for staff who see their work as not just work, but Jesus’ work and give generously of themselves.

Thank you for being part of this place where God’s fountain of life is overflowing, and we see God’s light.

***Blessings, Sharon***

P.S. Don’t forget to take the **Readiness 360** survey online, which will help us as we continue to explore the possibility of a second site for St. Mark’s.