

Messenger

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



Advent and Christmas Worship Services

What's it like to prepare the way for something important to happen in our lives? Maybe that's preparing for guests to come or go on a trip or for a special birthday celebration or arrival of a new baby. We get ready! As Advent begins on Dec. 2, we get ready for Christ to come again in our hearts and lives at Christmas. This year we'll connect to some of the stories of Scripture along with our memories and traditions in order to prepare the way for the deep mystery and joy of Jesus' arrival.

There are a number of activities, an Advent book study and an *Advent Devotional* booklet (written by St. Mark's members) that will help you "prepare the way" for the celebration of Jesus' birth this Advent season. You can read about all the Advent happenings in this newsletter!

ADVENT—Prepare the Way

Dec. 2—1st Sunday of Advent

"The Way of Peace. God's Vision for Our World" Isaiah 2:1-5

Dec. 9—2nd Sunday of Advent

"The Way of Justice. Simeon Speaks" Isaiah 11:1-10 & Luke 2:25-35

Dec. 16—3rd Sunday of Advent

"The Way of Fearlessness. Mary Rises to the Occasion" Isaiah 35:1-10 & Luke 1:46-55

Dec. 17—Service of the Longest Night (Fellowship Hall)

Dec. 23—4th Sunday of Advent

"The Way of Faithfulness. Joseph's Decision" Isaiah 7:1-10-16 & Matthew 1:18-25

CHRISTMAS—Monday, Dec. 24

11 a.m.—Lessons & Carols Worship and Holy Communion, with a soup and bread lunch following service.

4 p.m.—Blessing of the Children Worship, with words and music from *The Little Drummer Boy*

Christ Has Come! is the focus of the evening services based on Isaiah 9:2b-7 & Luke 2:1-20

6 p.m.—Modern worship with our Praise Band and candlelighting

8 p.m.—Traditional Worship, with choir, Holy Communion and candlelighting

10 p.m.—Traditional Worship, with choir, Holy Communion and candlelighting outside



Community Carol Sing

The music of St. Mark's Fifth Annual Community Carol Sing will fill the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 9. Under the direction of Elizabeth Schauer and accompanied by Sondra Franks, these musicians will lead us in this traditional holiday sing-along. The event will be at 3:00 p.m. with a reception following afterwards providing an opportunity to fellowship. This event is free, family-friendly, and open to the community.



Christmas Eve Children's Music

Any child who would like to participate in the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service is invited to attend rehearsals for four Sundays prior to the service. We will gather for fifteen minutes in Rm 8/9 at 9:30 a.m. (Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23). After rehearsals children may go directly to Sunday School or worship. Every child is welcome to participate. Hopefully you will consider having your child participate in this special music opportunity!

Poinsettia Dedication



The Worship Committee will decorate the Sanctuary, again this year, with Christmas poinsettias. The suggested donation for each plant is \$15. The proceeds will be used to support various programs locally and nationally.

If you would like to contribute towards the purchase of poinsettias, "in honor or memory of someone," please make your check payable to St. Mark's and write "poinsettias" on the memo line. Attach your check to the order form (below) and place it in the offering plate or bring the form (with your check) to the church office. The deadline is no later than Monday, Dec. 17. The poinsettia dedication list will be included in the bulletin on Sunday, Dec. 23 worship service.

You may pick up both the red and white poinsettias after the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, or from Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 26. Beginning Thursday, Dec. 27, any remaining plants will be delivered to homebound members and care facilities.

We appreciate your generous donations to the holiday Flower Fund for the Sanctuary. Your donation (over and above the cost of the flowers), at Christmas and Easter, are disbursed by the Worship Committee to different groups needing support. During 2018, some of those funds supported Our Family Services with a new kitchen sink faucet for their youth Reunion House. Also, in 2018 our Flower Fund purchased needed twin mattress sets and headboards at Fuente de Vida UMC's Medical Resident home in Aqua Prieta, Mexico.

2018 Poinsettia Dedication

Please PRINT legibly so we have the correct information.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

I am contributing \$ _____
for the purchase of poinsettias for the sanctuary.

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Deadline: Monday, Dec. 17

Christmas Eve Volunteers Needed!



Every year we need many, many volunteers to help with our five Christmas services! Volunteers are needed to Greet; Usher; serve Communion; or Acolyte during the Christmas service. Sign-up lists will be available at a table in the courtyard Nov. 18, 25, and Dec. 2, 9, or until the volunteer positions are filled. Christmas Eve is a very special occasion at St. Mark's, thank you for volunteering to help make services run smoothly and ensure a rich worship experience.

Greeters Recognition!

Calling all current, former, and prospective St. Mark's Greeters! On Sunday, Dec. 9, please join us for a "*Cake and Punch*" reception between services in the church Library. The Worship Committee and St. Mark's would like to show our appreciation to current and former Greeters who have given their time to greet during services.



Stop by the Library after the 8:15 or 9:45 a.m. service (and before the 11:15 service) for refreshments and new Greeter information. Also, we want to extend a special invitation to anyone who hasn't greeted at St. Mark's or has taken a break from greeting and would like to sign up again. To be a Greeter, all that's needed is an early arrival and a smile showing a welcoming presence to worshipers coming in the doors of St. Mark's. The Greeter Coordinators will have a list at the reception for current Greeters to update their contact information and a list to sign-up new volunteers to our Greeter Program. An updated Greeter Handbook will be available at the reception. If you are unable to make the reception but would like to sign up to join our Greeter program contact the Greeter Coordinator for your preferred service. Our coordinators schedule greeting dates so no one is on the calendar too often and volunteers can note the months of the year they would like to greet. If you email, please add "greeter" in the subject line.

Coordinator for 8:15: Charlotte Mitchell
(see directory)

Coordinator for 9:45: Pam Kytola
(see directory)

Advent studies begin next week! You don't want to miss this. The book is *Prepare the Way: Cultivating a Heart for God in Advent* by Pamela C. Hawkins. We

will be searching Scripture from both the Old and New Testaments regarding the themes of Peace, Justice, Fearlessness, and Faithfulness. We hope that one of these classes fits into your schedule for preparing yourself for this beautiful season. Sign-up at the bulletin board in the courtyard on Sunday. Please contact the facilitator of the class for additional information. Books are \$10 each, scholarships are available.

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	LEADER	START
MON	10:30 am 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm	Mountain View Barnes & Noble Primeras Lomas The Bluffs	Marge Sogn Pastor Evy/Margaret Synhorst Judy Boroto Art Ragland	11/26 11/26 11/26 11/26
TUE	7:00 pm	Saddlebrook	Marge and Bob Sogn	11/27
WED	10:00 am	Rm 17/18	Marcia Rostad	11/28
THU	9:30am	Savaya Coffee Market	Pastor Sharon*	11/29
SUN	8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am 11:15 am	Rm 17/18 Rm 17/18 Rm 20 Rm TBA	Linda Walker Sharing/Family Life Common Grounds Margaret Synhorst/Judy Boroto	12/02 12/02 12/02 12/02

*Please email Pastor Sharon (sharon@umcstmarks.org) to register for the Thursday class only which is limited to 12 people.

All Church Advent Workshop Dec. 1, 9a.m.to noon—Fellowship Hall



Come, join us and prepare our heart for Advent! You will have the opportunity to make Advent crafts for yourself or to give away; participate in several hands-on mission projects; take a Christmas-themed photo suitable for use on your Christmas card; read and inhabit some Bible stories that help us learn about Jesus; and have some yummy refreshments! You decide what you want to do! Some people are interested in one while others like to experience everything at the **Advent workshop**. There is something for everyone, and everyone is invited. You won't be disappointed!

Sidewalk Sunday School

Sidewalk Sunday school (SSS) is a conference-wide project which provides holiday gifts (gift bags and gift cards) so that less fortunate children and young people can receive a gift and hear the Christmas Story. All donations stay in Tucson and go to the SSS program at New Hope, UMC (I-19 and Valencia). Pastor Augustine Jeminez and his wife, Mary, provide marvelous outreach to his congregation and the surrounding area. Their SSS program is open to all and they extend an invitation to anyone at St. Mark's that would like to attend.

Empty gift bags will be distributed on Sunday Nov. 25, Dec. 2, and 9 (or you may use your own bag 10" x 12"). You may choose the age group and gender for gifts. All gift cards must be \$20 (from Walmart or Target stores only).

Look for the Christmas tree in the courtyard! Bags, tags and directions will be available and helpers will monitor the tree to answer questions, etc. Filled bags should be returned to the tree on Sundays or to the church office before Friday, Dec. 14.

Volunteers are welcome to help check bags on Friday, Dec. 14, 9 a.m. to noon, in Fellowship Hall. Please call me if you can help (520-744-9240).

It's a great opportunity to participate in a "hands-on" mission project and meet other people! I will bring the doughnuts! I hope this generous congregation will again support Sidewalk Sunday School and provide a memorable holiday for children. For questions and to sign up for the bag checking or tree monitoring call Ellen Beene (see directory).

Best Christmas Pageant Ever!

Friday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. - Sanctuary

Come and celebrate the reason for the season! You have never seen a Christmas play like this one. Meet the Herdmans (The worst kids in the world!) who come to church and take over the annual Christmas play cast. Shenanigans ensue and just about everyone has the chance to really ponder what's important. Hear many classic Christmas carols and get to see many of our talented Sunday School children perform. After the one hour play, we will have a cookie reception in the Fellowship Hall. You do not want to miss this wonderful event!



Christmas Event

St. Mark's HIV/AIDS Ministry will be hosting a Christmas Tree filled with ornaments for children of all ages. Donated gifts will be distributed to Tucson children affected or living with HIV/AIDS at a Holiday Family event sponsored by Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN). Look for the tree on Nov. 25. There is an informational flyer at the table with ideas for gifts of different age groups and a decorated box in the courtyard for your donations. The deadline for all donations on Dec. 2. Thank you always for your generosity!



Nov, 11 Sunday Dinner Sale proceeds were \$614 and a HUGE success! All monies support people living with HIV/AIDS all over the state of AZ at a four-day retreat **Strength for the Journey**. St. Mark's will provide 22 campers with scholarship money needed for her or his registration fee. Together, the congregation and all the makers, shakers and bakers at St. Mark's are so faithful with their full participation and purchase all this homemade food. WOW!! This is the success story... St. Mark's will send \$2,000 to support this life affirming camp retreat. St. Mark's United Methodist Missions at work! Go forth and do good!

Gil Needs a Home!

Gil is a young special needs Lab mix who is paralyzed in both his back legs. He can get around in his wheelchair; by dragging himself, or by riding in a wagon. Perhaps you met him at St. Mark's recent Rummage to the Rescue(s) event or saw the feature article about him in the Sunday newspaper on Nov. 4. Gil is currently being cared for by two amazing foster moms (one during the week; the other on weekends) and a local rescue organization.



Relief foster help is being sought. Are you that special person (or do you know someone), who has the love and the time to help Gil? All supplies will be provided. Gil's care includes diaper changes and wound dressing. A foster must be able to lift a 35-40 lb. dog several times a day.

If you might be interested in helping Gil, please email animalministry@umcstmarks.org for information about his needs and care. And please join us in praying for Gil's progress in healing and for his search for a forever home!

Animal Ministry Team

Common Grounds Christmas Cookie Party!



Common Grounds is a wonderful group for people in their 20's, 30's, and 40's, in all walks of life. We have various groups that meet weekly and monthly for study and fellowship. On December 15, all Common Grounds groups will come together at the Mosher's home for a fun Christmas cookie exchange party at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided, all you need to bring are your favorite cookies (no peanuts please)! Please let Rachel know if you have any food allergies so we can make sure there is something for everyone. Children are welcome for this family-friendly party! Contact Rachel (rachel@umcstmarks.org) for directions or to answer any questions.

Fair-trade Coffee Sale

St. Mark's Agua Prieta Task Force will sell one pound bags of 100% Arabica, fair-trade, organic coffee on Sunday, Dec. 2.

Consider purchasing coffee as Christmas gifts!

For your convenience, we will accept debit/credit card payments as well as checks, or cash! **Coffee selections (at \$10/bag) include Medium Roast or Dark Roast and either are available in regular, decaf, ground or whole beans.**



All proceeds of coffee sales go to Cafe la Colonia (producer of this wonderful coffee).

Cafe la Colonia is a small business run by members of the Fluente de Vida church in Agua Prieta, Mexico (across the border from Douglas, AZ). Fluente de Vida (Methodist) church has been a long-standing mission project of St. Mark's and several other churches in the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church. Look for our table in the courtyard on Sunday, Dec. 2, or contact Robert Kittrell (see directory) if you have questions.

Market on the Move

Market on the Move is ready to start its new season of offering fresh produce from 8-10 a.m. on **Sat. Dec. 1 at St. Mark's!**



For only \$10 you can receive 60 pounds of produce and help keep the surplus veggies out of the landfill. Plus you can offer your time and help us with the distribution, set up and clean up. We need helpers to be at the church at 7:00 a.m. to help set up the tables, to keep the produce stocked from 8-10 and take the tables down while wearing closed toed shoes. Please sign up on the Missions bulletin board or call Lenna Burnham (see directory).

Did You Know?

The **United Methodist Social Principles** is a section of United Methodist *Book of Discipline*. These Social Principles express The United Methodist Church's official position on societal issues, casting a vision for a just and equitable world.

This month, we will examine what the Social Principles say about our responsibility for the responsible use of the earth's resources, particularly plastics used for food packaging and utensils. This particular area falls under the section of the Social Principles dealing with the natural world. The Methodist Church supports and encourages social policies that serve to reduce and control the creation of industrial byproducts and waste. We are encouraged to move toward the reduction and appropriate disposal of municipal waste and provide for suitable recycling and disposal of municipal waste. We are deeply concerned about the privatization of water resources and the bottling of water to be sold as a commodity for profit. We urge municipalities and other governmental organizations to develop processes for determining sustainability of water resources and to determine the environmental, economic and social consequences of privatization of water resources prior to the licensing and approval thereof.

The social principles are extended by resolutions which have been adopted by the General Conference. There is a resolution which deals with Environmental Stewardship. This resolution calls on United Methodists to support measures which will lead to a more careful and efficient use of resources of the natural world. We call on United Methodists to examine their consumption patterns and to seek to live a simple and less resource-dependent life. We call for programs which will recycle solid materials of all sorts – paper, glass wood, building materials, metals, plastics, etc. We urge United Methodists to participate actively in community recycling programs and to seek the establishment of such programs in communities without these programs. (www.umc.org/what-we-believe/are-united-methodists-expected-to-recycle).

Here at St. Mark's the Church and Society Committee has begun to investigate how to develop a program where local fast food restaurants will be provided with biodegradable plastic utensils (such as Polylactic Acid, PLA) in place of the more commonly used polystyrene or polypropylene materials which have a life span of thousands of years and are a danger to wildlife.

The Church and Society Committee



Keep on Keepin' on

As I write this, the procession of immigrants from Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala are marching toward our border. This has to give every American a jolt, pause to think, perhaps a desire to withdraw our hospitality. Personally, I have no remarks but to ask you to first ponder what conditions would be like to cause you to pull up stakes, leaving all that you know behind. Then, next to pray for peaceful resolution that is just, compassionate and equitable for all.

There is much we don't hear, but God knows. From my point as a liaison to the INN, I think we "keep on keeping on," doing what we do well for those seekers of asylum that ICE allows through and who come to us. Needless to say, ICE's task is daunting, and I think we should pray for them, too.

Meanwhile, we will continue to function, and I come to you asking, once again, for your very generous help. While the DSWUMC has designated The INN to be one of three conference-wide mission projects, that endorsement does not come with conference monies. However, we have expenses we need to meet monthly (at least \$5,000). This monthly "budget" helps to pay a very modest "salary" of the Site Coordinator (60+ hrs. weekly), food, utilities, pharmacy needs, telephones for the residents use, cleaning supplies, etc. This amount does not provide a lavish meal, but enough to feed empty stomachs.

As I list our critical needs, I ask you to pray about how you might be able to help. Right now, onsite volunteers are needed desperately, as well as money.

- Money (donations made the DSWUMC, designated for the INN). We need an on-going flow of income. Sometimes we don't receive enough.
- Volunteers for 4.5 hr. shifts (Three daytime shifts.) We need overnight volunteers (private room) - 11pm - 8:30 am). Minimally we need 7 volunteers daily.
- Backpacks, shoes (small sizes), children's clothing, adult clothing (medium size), hats, gloves, mittens, laundry supplies.
- See our Amazon wish list

Some helpful websites and addresses:

Money donations: Online: <https://dscumc.org/secure/ip-donation>. Be sure to designate The INN Mail: Desert Southwest Annual Conference, 1550 E. Meadowbrook Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85014. (Include "The INN" on the memo line.)

To Volunteer: <http://dscumc.org/secure/ip-registration> (Please try to do this online before going downtown. We always like to know who's coming so we can better assure the safety of our guests. If you have online problems in doing this, please call Gretchen Lopez, Site Coordinator (520-312-1451). May God bless each of you for all that you do!

In Christ's love, Kathie Barrett

Adult Mission Trip

Many of you have expressed interest in having an adult mission opportunity. 1Mission builds 11 x 24 houses in Rocky Point, Mexico. The Desert Southwest Conference is putting together church teams to go and build houses Friday, March 1 through Monday, March 4, 2019. For information, go to www.1Mission.org. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Margaret Synhorst (margaret@umcstmarks.org) or call the church office. We will have a meeting to discuss the trip on **Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**



Chronic Illness/Pain Support Group

Welcome back to our friends who spend the winter in beautiful Tucson, and greetings also to our many new St. Mark's members. Our mission is to help each other cope with pain and chronic illness through prayer, discussion, education, expressive therapy and the love which Jesus gave us. And to carry that love and hope to others who are suffering. If you think you might benefit we meet in the church Library, 10:30—noon, but we have made a few date adjustments for the holidays. Our upcoming meetings are Nov. 28, Dec. 12, Dec. 19. (No meetings on Nov. 24 or Dec. 26). For more information please contact April DuBoce (see directory).



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 or from our website www.umcstmarks.org. Also, visit our Prayer Room on campus and leave a prayer on our prayer wall.

Dottie Allen
Ron Barth
Gail Blevins
Jared Bowman & family
Michael Campbell
Donald Chester

Tom DeShong
Judy Drescher
Keith & Mary Ann Glazier
Breanne Hallam
Carolyn Hanna
David & Floretta Harrington

Karen Hasselbach
Patricia Keele
Brent Linebarier
Wanda & Ray Loughney
Jean Ogle
Hazel Roberts

Gina Russell
Marian Shultis
Carol Underwood
Jackie Vickers
Connie White
Lindsay Williams

CONDOLENCES: We extend our sympathy and prayers to Linda Girard upon the death (Nov. 12) of her husband, Jim. No services are planned.

Multi-site Memorandum



Tell your friends!

When you're doing something you enjoy, that enriches your life, and makes it more enjoyable and fulfilling you really like to share that information with friends and family, right? That something (for me) that makes my life more enjoyable, enriched and fulfilled is worshiping at St. Marks. I'm not sure exactly what "it" is that fulfills me at St. Mark's—the message at worship, music, the youth programs when our children were younger, or being involved on committees that support our church. Probably all of that! The reasons each of us attend St. Mark's is probably a bit unique for each of us, yet we all know St. Marks has a lot to offer and know the tremendous impact it has in the community with its ministry, outreach and youth programs.

As the committee that's working on the multi-site campus projects continues its work in the background, it is vital that people in the community learn that St. Mark's UMC is growing. The congregation members of St. Mark's are the best advertisement for the new campus. Let's tell our friends and family the good news that St. Mark's second site is coming to the Dove Mountain area in 2019!

Dean Elledge, Multi-Site Team

Open Minds Book Discussion

The next Open Minds book discussion will take place on Friday, December 21 from 9:30-11 a.m. There are two books to choose from in December: *Mr. Dickens and His Carol* (Silva)—fiction—or *A Christmas Memory* (Capote)—memoir. Choose ONE book, and join our group. This book study varies in attendance, and everyone is welcome to pop by when a book looks intriguing. Questions, please contact Jane or Jerry Bartow (jjbartow@comcast.net).

WASS UP?

November 21, 2018

Volume 19, Issue 23



UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

November 25, 2018—

Thanksgiving Week-end



December 2, 2018—

4:00 to 6:00

Dinner for our friends in
“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”
We’ll cook and serve the young
actors. Watch for details via email.

December 9, 2018—

4:00 to 6:00

Mission Night

Reading to
cats & Dogs
Pima
Animal
Control



Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf



Greetings PreTeen's,

Remember there is no
PreTeen program on Nov. 25,
due to the holiday weekend. En-
joy your time with family &
friends and let them know how
thankful you are for them.

Wow , December is upon us ...
This is such a joyous season. We
will have lots of Fun Filled Fel-
lowship this month. Can't wait to
see you on 12/2.

Blessings, Julie

**November 25th - Happy
Thanksgiving!! NO PreTeen**

December 2nd - Game night.
Bring a game from home to
share with your friends.

**December 9th - We will be
making more blankets for the
children at The Inn .**

Welcome
DECEMBER

a note from the

YOUTH DIRECTOR

Happy Thanksgiving!

People in other countries aren't saying that to each other this month. They don't have the great stories, of American history, about Pilgrims and Native Americans feasting together. They don't know that the first settlers on our east coast had dealt with great hardships, and feasted with their neighbors, as they gave God thanks for what they had come through.

Amazing, right. I'm sure you all remember coloring pictures of the first Thanksgiving. Do you ever stop to remember that our country was founded by people who knew that God was/is the center of people's lives?

Give thanks this season. — It's part of our heritage.

Blessings, Kim

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12-03 Chase Laos
 - 12-05 Addison DaDeppo
 - 12-11 Madison Barnes
 - 12-11 Lisa DaDeppo*
 - 12-14 Alex Carsten
- * Sunday School teacher



Middle School Moments

A few weeks ago, I worked at the Book Fair at my kids' school. I love books. Reading is one of my favorite pastimes. So it really wasn't too hard to convince me to hang out and help kids find books they would love to read.

While I was there, I picked up a cool book, called *Ugly*. This book is a memoir written by Robert Hoge, and in it, he talks about growing up looking different from everyone else. Near the beginning of the book, Hoge says "Humans are like social Legos. We connect together with families. We build lives with friends. On our own, we're just one piece. When we come together in groups, we make amazing things." I love this. I read it and now I can't get it out of my head. It is just so true.

I was thinking about all of the different "buildings" I am a part of. My family, my friends, my church family, our youth group. The list is long! And what a cool "building" we all make together! Each week, we come together and connect in different ways. Come connect with us!

See you Sunday,
Rachel



Calendar Notes

Thurs., Nov. 22

Church Office Closed (Thanksgiving)
Noon - Thanksgiving Meal, Fellowship Hall



Fri., Nov. 23

Church Office (Thanksgiving)

Sat., Nov. 24

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Rm 17/18
2:00 p.m. Karen Linebarier Memorial

Sun., Nov. 25

MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY

No Preteen Group
No Youth Group



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Lead 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.

Mon., Nov. 26

9:15 a.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. Grief Support
6:30 p.m. Social Principles, Fellowship Hall

Wed., Nov. 28

Noon Bulletin Deadline
5:45 p.m. Soul Station meal, Fellowship Hall
6:20 p.m. Soul Station Worship, Fellowship Hall

Thurs., Nov. 29

Noon Messenger Deadline
6:00 p.m. Technology Committee, Library
6:30 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall

Sat., Dec. 1

9:00 a.m. UMW Craft & Bake Sale, Library
9:00 a.m. All Church Advent Workshop, FH

Dear Church Family ...



Good morning Casey, I just want to thank you and everyone that came out on Saturday to help Anna out. When I spoke to her on Tuesday she told that she loves the blanket that you gave her. She has been using it since Saturday curling up on the couch with it and Shimmer. Thank you for all of your hard work. Anna and Lin are truly grateful for everything that you guys did.

Andrea Navarro, AmeriCorps Member A Brush With Kindness

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the community at St. Mark's after my recent incident breaking both my ankles. I truly appreciate the outpouring of support in the form of prayers, cards, calls, and food. It truly made me feel connected to St. Mark's through your outpouring of love. Contact from people at St. Mark's let me know that God is still working through them and in my life. And allowed me to stay positive during the five weeks I was away from services at St. Mark's. Thank you all so much, I appreciate it more than you know.

Grace and peace, Kelly Deyoe

Once again, we thank our St. Mark's family for thinking of us in your prayers, cards, and visits. Dave has greatly progressed over the last few weeks and it is because of the strength we both have gathered from our church family. We are truly grateful.

Jan and Dave Webster

Why Livestream?



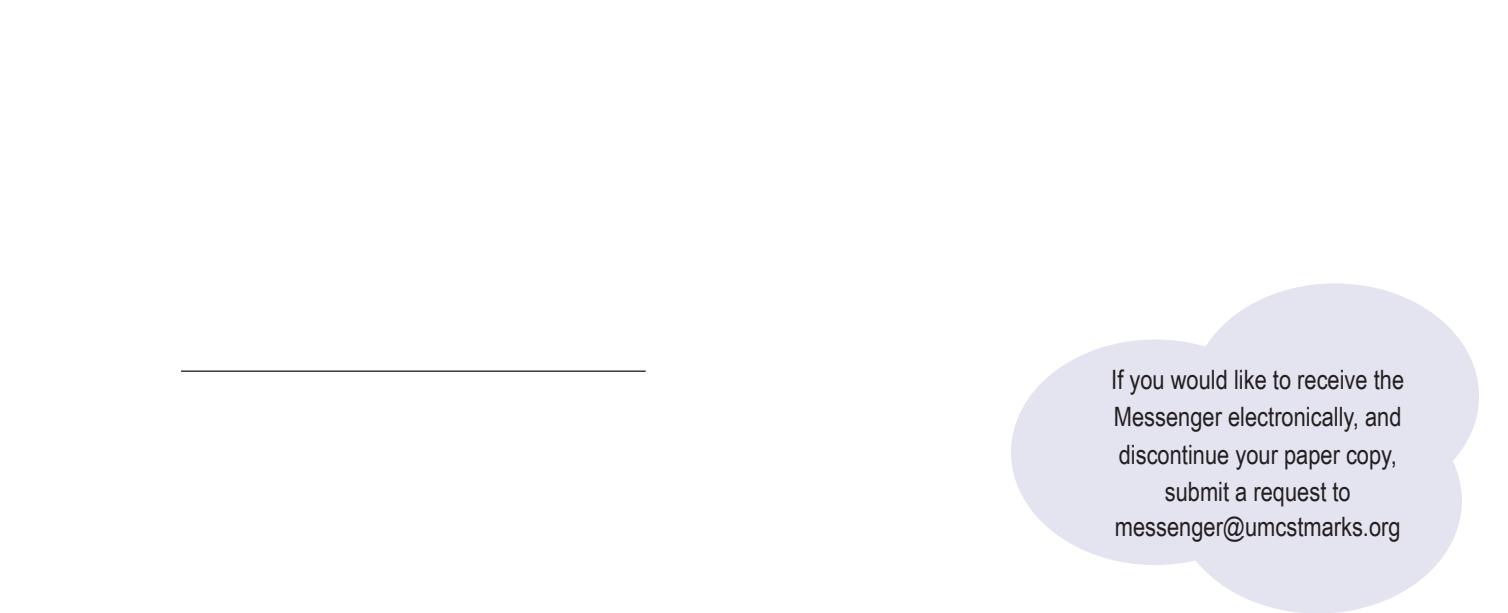
Some people have asked, "why livestream our worship services?" Beginning Sunday, Dec. 2, the 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. will be livestreamed so our worship services can be watched from your computer or other device. Why? Livestreaming is for those who are out of town, cannot attend worship or who are looking for a new church and want to see what we're like. If you have neighbors, friends or family members who haven't been to St. Mark's, you can now say, "beginning Dec. 2, you can livestream our worship services and hear the music and the message and see what we're like."

If you're out of town or unable to attend worship, check out the livestream. We're also hoping to livestream memorial and other special services in the future. To livestream, go to our website www.umcstmarks.org and select "watch live" from the main menu.



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Reflections

A member of our extended family has been posting a daily thanksgiving on Facebook during November. She lives on the east coast and has been thankful for shelter during the storms, someone to help shovel the walk so she could go to work, a lazy Saturday at home, and much more.

What would I post for a daily thanksgiving? Cool temperatures, a late-season queen butterfly chrysalis in our yard, family close by, a loving, spirited church community. I don't think I have enough days in November for all the thanksgivings.

I've felt for a long time that "thanks" was an inadequate word for the depth of gratitude in my heart for life and breath and goodness and experiences of new life and so much more. Sometimes I forget and find myself fussing about not having or being able to do this or that and have to let God remind me of all the ways that God is living and moving in my life and in the lives of those around me.

I know that there is much heartache in our world. I see it firsthand all the time. Today we hear about fires, shootings, illness and other difficulties and ask, "Where is God in all of that?" I believe that God's Spirit moves into the dark



places and takes up residence, working and moving, shaping and healing, strengthening and guiding. Our job is open our hearts and lives in gratitude and willingly let God move in and around us. Then God asks us to be God's hands and feet in the world and help to bring hope and healing.

So we pray: ***Gracious God, how can our thanks be enough for all you do and are for us? Soften our hearts, open us to your Spirit, and fill us with your grace. Give us grateful hearts so that we can see and hear your goodness and offer our hands and feet, eyes and ears to those who need to hear and see good news. Help us be good news, in Jesus' name. Amen.***

Blessings, Sharon

P.S. Livestreaming is coming to St. Mark's on Sunday, December 2, 2018. The 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. worship services will be livestreamed beginning that day. Watch through your computer, smart TV, tablet or phone by going to www.umcstmarks.org and select **Watch Live** from the main menu.