

Messenger

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

St. Mark's
United Methodist

Lent Begins March 6 this year!

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 6 in 2019) and ends on Holy Saturday (April 20, 2019). Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten* which means *spring*. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism, facing temptation and getting ready to follow his call to ministry among God's people.

Lent is a time to look at ourselves and examine our relationship with God as we get ready to receive the new life of Easter (April 21, 2019). In the early church people prepared for baptism during Lent. Today, we focus on ways we might need to change or grow in order to be closer to God. To do that some people give up something during Lent or take on a new way of serving God to give themselves for others. Sundays are not counted in the forty days of Lent because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and helps us anticipate the joy of Easter.

This year...

Ash Wednesday – March 6

6:00 to 9:00 a.m. – Sanctuary, receive ashes and a blessing from Pastor Sharon

5:45 p.m. – Soul Station, join us for dinner in Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m. – Worship in the Sanctuary with music, ashes and Holy Communion

Sundays During Lent - Beginning March 10

As we continue our 2019 focus on *What the Bible Really Says About...*, we'll take time to consider some of life's hard questions about evil and suffering. People have many questions about what the Bible says about evil, suffering, war, killing, and natural disasters. Our Lent theme will be *Confronting Suffering and Evil*.

Soul Station Lenten Study

During the season of Lent, we will be going deeper into the sermon series: *Confronting Evil and Suffering*. Even if you were not in church on Sunday, the program will be of value to you. Dinner is at 5:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by our Lenten discussion. We will end the evening with Holy Communion around 7:00 p.m. There is a children's program that is concurrent with our discussion time. We are very family oriented. Come and enhance your Lenten journey.

Studies During Lent

Learn about our Lenten studies on page two of this newsletter.

Special Activities and Events

Check the website calendar for additional details including times.

j Saturday, March 9, 16 – Prayer Beads Workshops

j Sunday, March 24 – Pet Memorial and Reception

j Tuesday, March 26 – Heroes Of Faith Movie Series – **A Man of All Seasons**

j Sunday, March 31 – **Tapestry of Prayer** Celebration Singers Concert

j Friday, April 5 – Drive-through Spaghetti Dinner, UMW Fundraiser

j Saturday, April 13 – Community Easter Event

j Thursday, April 18 – Drama **The Seder That Changed Everything**

j Sunday, April 14 – Palm & Passion Sunday with a cantata at 8:15 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.

j Friday, April 19 – **Into the Darkness**, a service of Tenebrae

j Saturday, April 20 – Holy Saturday worship service



Thank you, Rick Farnsworth!

You've seen him around. Every Sunday morning, without fail, he's the fellow bringing out the red umbrella, cleaning the patio, setting up tables, and getting St. Mark's ready for worship. Then he takes it all apart and puts it all away after we've gone.

thank
you!

For 20 years, Rick Farnsworth has been the "Sunday morning guy". Rick has been such a fixture on Sundays that we've probably taken him for granted. Matthew 23:11 says, "The greatest among you will be your servant."

Well, Rick Farnsworth is a pretty great guy. After 20 years of service, Rick is taking a well-deserved rest. You'll still see him around. He's not going anywhere. He's just going to get the chance to sleep a little later on Sundays. Rick's last day as the "Sunday guy" is February 24. We'll be honoring him at worship on that day. When you see him, thank him for his work. He's made our St. Mark's experience better all these years. Thanks and blessings, Rick, we appreciate you!

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Meet the New Guy!

Starting Feb. 24, St. Mark's own **Tony Lovaglio** will take over the Sunday morning duties, and will also be working a few hours on Saturdays.

You've noticed how busy St. Mark's is these days, so Tony is going to help with set ups, cleaning and light maintenance during the weekends. He'll be known as our Weekend Custodian. Tony is joining St. Mark's Administrative Services Team, led by Ruth Kester. If you have an event or need Tony's help, schedule that through the office. In the meantime, give Tony a thumbs up, and offer to lend him a hand—St. Mark's is a busy place. Welcome aboard, Tony!



Staff Parish Relations Committee

2019 Lenten Studies at St. Mark's



In the busyness of our lives, our relationship with God can fray like the ends of a rope. Friendships can lose their momentum when we become engrossed in the grind of daily life and don't make time to hang out with friends. This can also happen in our relationship with God. During Lent, Jesus invites us into a renewed friendship. He invites us to "catch up" on the things that have happened in our lives that we have not told him about. Jesus invites us to put God at the center of our lives. He knows that in doing so we will reclaim our true identity as beloved sons and daughters of a God who deeply desires friendship with us.

—Trevor Hudson, Anthony Egan, SJ, and Russell Pollitt, SJ (*Divine Friendship: Reflections for Lent*)

Sundays Studies

8:30 a.m. Study Group, led by Linda Walker

Reflections and Meditations on the Scriptures of Lent

Our time together will offer participants opportunities to reflect upon the themes and Scriptures of the day's worship services through reading, discussion, meditation and prayer. No book purchase is necessary.

9:45 a.m. Family Life/ Sharing Group

Led by Terry Majewski and Rick Farnsworth

Entering the Passion of Jesus—Beginner's Guide to Holy Week (Amy-Jill Levine). The author explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story and shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

9:45 a.m. Study Group, led by Margaret Synhorst

Simplifying The Soul – Lenten Practices to Renew Your Spirit (Paula Huston). This book invites readers to de-clutter their minds, hearts, relationships and souls in a book of daily Lenten practices woven from the gospels, the Desert Fathers and the author's own wealth of spiritual experience.

11:00 a.m. Common Grounds, led by Rachel Mosher

The Wesley Challenge by Chris Folmsbee introduces our denomination's father in a practical and accessible way through twenty-one questions studied over three weeks. This series is a great way to discover a deeper commitment to God—one that

is more authentic, vulnerable, and soul-shaping. Daily posts and messages are designed to engage your physical, emotional and spiritual lives throughout the 21-day study.

11:15 a.m. Study Group

Led by Judy Boroto and Margaret Synhorst

A Resurrection Shaped Life—Dying and Rising on Planet Earth by Jake Owensby. The author leads us through a re-examination of the biblical concept of resurrection and explains how we can begin to experience resurrection in our ordinary life on earth through honest reflection, repentance and forgiveness to a new life of self-acceptance.

Monday Studies

10:30 a.m. Mtn. View Retirement Center, led by Marge Sogn

Jesus: Understanding His Death and Resurrection by Kay and David Arthur explores the death and resurrection of Jesus to help readers understand why it matters to the world—and for them personally. It gives a clearer understanding of the *why* behind the events during the final days of Jesus on earth.

6:00 p.m. The Bluffs Home Group, led by Art Ragland

A Resurrection Shaped Life – Dying and Rising on Planet Earth by Jake Owensby leads us through a re-examination of the biblical concept of resurrection and explains how we can begin to experience resurrection in our ordinary life on earth through honest reflection, repentance, and forgiveness to a new life of self-acceptance.

Monday Studies continued...

6:30 p.m. Las Primeras Lomas Home Group

Led by Judy Boroto

Simplifying The Soul – Lenten Practices to Renew Your Spirit by Paula Huston invites readers to de-clutter their minds, hearts, relationships, and souls in a book of daily Lenten practices woven from the gospels, the Desert Fathers and the author's own wealth of spiritual experience.

Wednesday Studies

10:00 a.m. Wed. Morning Study Group, led by Marcia Rostad **Because of This I Rejoice - Reading Philippians During Lent** (Max O. Vincent). This study of Philippians explores what Paul teaches about joyfully practicing spiritual disciplines. The intent of these disciplines is to help us focus less on ourselves and more on God. This Lenten study invites us to engage in the same spiritual practices to grow closer to God and allow joy to flow through our life.

Other Relevant Lenten Activities

Men's Prayer Group

Wednesdays, 9:15 a.m. begins Feb. 20 and ongoing

Come pray with us. You will not have to get out of your comfort zone; we won't require you to pray out loud. Day and time will be determined by participants. Contact Dave Belt (see directory) or Howard Putt (see directory).

Spring Retreat

March 2, 2019 White Stallion Ranch, 9a.m. – 3p.m.

Cost: \$40 per person, registration is necessary.

Limit is 40 participants. Scholarships are available.

This retreat is filling up fast—just a few slots left. You don't want to miss this meaningful time together discussing communication as a spiritual practice. We usually think of a spiritual practice in terms of prayer, meditation, scripture reading, and other traditional exercises. But how about connecting our human relationships with the notion of a spiritual discipline or practice? That's what this retreat is all about. How we relate to each other, our communication habits and patterns, the way we understand relating in the manner of Jesus...all this has a spiritual dimension that we will explore. Retreat Leader is Professor (retired) Kim Pearce who taught Communications for 25 years at De Anza College in the San Francisco Bay area and is a member of Vista de la Montana UMC.

Falling Upward: A Spirituality For The Two Halves Of Life Book Discussion Begins Thurs. March 7, 10:00 a.m.

Led by Rev. Dr. Roger Pierce (4 weeks)

One of the most thought-provoking books of the last decade is this book by Richard Rohr. It's about who we are in the first half of life...climbing, achieving, performing—and how all that changes in life's second half, when we have broader horizons, face loss of control in many ways, and face inevitable suffering. The notion of two halves of life is very important, especially since too many of us fail to make the transition. This is what Rohr discusses, the spirituality of both segments of life, and it is pertinent to us because most of us are approaching or solidly entrenched in the second half. This discussion will focus on the spirituality of life change and suggest that **falling down**, the mistakes and challenges we face, is really the opportunity to grow as a human person. Registration is required and it is strongly suggested that attendees obtain a copy of the book for advance reading each week.

Conversational Spanish Group

Begins Feb. 20 - May 1, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Rm 17/18

The group started last year at St. Mark's and will continue this year. It is an intermediate level group that tries to use Spanish as much as possible. All are welcome who have an interest. For questions as to whether you are at an appropriate level for this class, please contact Chuck Boreson (see directory), leader or Jim Hanna (see directory) who is assisting. Bienvenido!

Masada (1981 TV series)

Sunday March 3, 10, 17 at 1:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

As part of two trips to Israel, we traveled to this site of the final Jewish rebellion. Each time people talked about seeing the series again. Although the interest came from the tour groups, everyone is invited. No RSVP required. No refreshments will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own.

Two Prayer Bead Workshops

Led by Brenda Hunter

Often during Lent we spend more time contemplating our relationship with God. Communication is always important in relationships and prayer is one of our most important ways to communicate with God. A tool that can help with that communication, especially when it comes to focus, is prayer beads. Here's two opportunities to work with prayer beads this Lenten season!

Saturday, March 9—9:00 to 11:15 a.m., Rm 20

Some of you have indicated that you want to use prayer beads, but the assembly process is unappealing. We will have a class on just the use of beads at this workshop. If you have beads already, please bring them. If not, meet Brenda Hunter in the courtyard between services on either Sunday Feb. 24 or March 3 and pick out a bead kit. The prayer beads will be waiting for you in class! \$5 charge for beads (Enrollment is limited to ten people due to room size.)

Saturday March 16—9:00 a.m. to noon, Fellowship Hall

During this workshop, participants will choose a kit and assemble your own prayer beads with time to practice using them. It is rewarding to create a product with your own hands – even if chasing the little rolling beads can make you grit your teeth a bit. \$5 charge for beads. We will need a minimum enrollment of five people to conduct the class.

Annual Pet Memorial Service

The Animal Ministry Team invites our church and local community to its annual Pet Memorial Service on **Sunday, March 24, at 3:00 p.m.** Experience a time to acknowledge and respect the importance animals have held in our hearts and lives, and to celebrate their place in God's creation. It doesn't matter how recent or long ago your loss occurred.

If you would like your pet's picture to appear in a video montage during the service, email animalministry@umcstmarks.org no later than Friday, March 22. (You can also bring a photo to the church office to be scanned.) The video will provide a time to honor their memories.



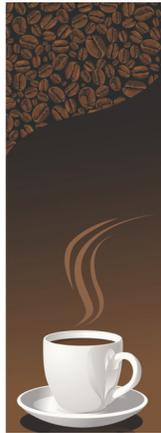
Following the service, members of the St. Mark's Animal Ministry Team will offer refreshments in the Welcome Center, providing time for participants to mingle and share stories with others who understand. You may even wish to bring a photo with you for this time of sharing. Therapy dogs will also be available to offer comfort.

Please feel free to share this invitation with others who would be interested.

Common Grounds

Are you in your 20s, 30s, or 40s, and looking for a group just for you? Common Grounds has so many options! Check out one of our great programs, or all of them!

Sunday Mornings, we host a casual, discussion based Bible Study for young adults. For Lent, we will be taking on **The Wesley Challenge** which poses 21 questions for us to discuss. These questions will make us look deeper into ourselves, and find a more authentic faith. We meet in Rm 20.



On Wednesday Nights Common Grounds hosts a discussion group. We gather with fellow church members for dinner at 5:45 p.m. and as the service starts, move to the Library (around 6:15 p.m.). Conversation centers around what is on our hearts, or we do a short-term Bible study. The members of the group determine the direction!

Coffee and Conversation meets the 3rd Saturday of every month in the Library at 6:00 p.m. Here, we take the time to relax and be in fellowship with people in similar life stages to ourselves and pray for one another. Coffee is provided, and we have fun potluck themes that change every month!

If you have any questions about any of these programs, contact Rachel (rachel@umcstmarks.org) in the church office. We hope to see you soon!

Additional 2020 Wesley Heritage Tour Info. Meeting

Have you wanted to visit Great Britain and visit the sites connected to our Methodist tradition? Did you miss the first information meeting?

In April, 2020, Pastor Sharon and Art Ragland and Mark and Marjie Hrabec will lead a Wesley Heritage Tour to Great Britain, visiting those sites and learning about John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. An information meeting about the upcoming trip will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Feb. 24, at 12:45 p.m. Come and find out more!

WESLEY
HERITAGE



TOUR
2020



Multi-site Team

Your Multi-site Team has a request for the members of the St. Mark's community. Would you please pray that we are able to recognize the location that we should use for a second worship site? We are using the phrase **St. Mark's: One Church, Two Locations!** as a guide for our work, but we need help to identify that second spot.

We found our conversations a few weeks ago with you very useful, as did many of you. While the members of the Multi-site Team are available for questions anytime, sometimes it seems rather random. We will make ourselves more obviously available by setting up a conversation table on the courtyard at least one Sunday a month beginning in March. Members of the Multi-site Team will be waiting to talk with you.

Chronic Illness/Pain Support Group

Upcoming book study, begins Wednesday Feb. 27.

Our book is **But God, Wouldn't I Be More Useful to You If I Were Healthy? Chronic Pain and the Christian Life** by Easter Smith helps us understand why we ARE useful in God's kingdom, in spite of our physical challenges.

It is written in short chapters, so no worries about concentration or pain brain! Books are \$9.00 each or scholarship books are available.



If you suffer from mild pain, trick knee, stenosis, tennis elbow, severe pain—anything that you feel limits what you can do in service for Christ, then this study is for you! It will be a two-three month study, but you can join anytime. Caregivers and support people are also welcome. If you have any questions, contact April DuBoce (see directory).

Spiritual Growth Retreat

Saturday and Sunday, March 23-24, 2019 Desert Southwest District Spiritual Growth Retreat at Redemptorist Center 101 W. Picture Rocks Rd., Tucson, AZ. Emily Jones, Executive for Racial Justice, United Methodist Women will be the Retreat leader.

The Retreat provides an opportunity to reconnect with God and deepen an understanding of racial justice. Cost per person: Shared room \$115.00, Single \$140.00, Commuter \$60. This includes meals. Check in at 8:30 a.m. on March 23; departure is after lunch on Sunday. Additional information and registration forms are on the District Southwest website <https://dscumc.org/event/umw-womens-spiritual-growth-retreat>. Registration forms are also available in the UMW mailbox in the Church office. Registration ends March 1, 2019.



Cafe la Colonia
COFFEE SALE



St Mark's Agua Prieta (Mexico) Task Force plans another Coffee Sale opportunity of 100% Arabica, fair-trade, organic coffee from Cafe la Colonia. You may remember that a similar coffee sale in January was cancelled, due coffee roasting problems!

Look for the table in the courtyard on **Sunday, March 3**. Stop by and pick up a bag or two of your favorite blend of Medium or Dark roast coffee (whole bean or ground; decaf or regular) for just \$10 a bag. All proceeds support Cafe la Colonia, the small business run by members of Flunte de Vida (Methodist) Church (across the border of Douglas, AZ). Fluenta de Vida ministries as well as several others, have been long-standing mission service projects of St. Mark's. For questions, please contact Robert Kittrell (see directory). Thank you for your generous support!

UMW Craft Circle Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 26, Rm 17/18 from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

St. Mark's United Methodist Women invite you to join our newly formed Craft Circle. This new group will meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month (rm 17/18, 9:00 a.m. until noon).

You are welcome to come for an hour or two if you have time constraints. Bring your craft ideas or examples of your favorite craft. You can work on a craft of your own choosing or help others with a craft for the UMW Craft Fairs in November and December. Plan to join us for fun and fellowship—everyone is welcome.

CRAFT SUPPLIES NEEDED! If you have craft supplies that you no longer want, we'd love to take them off your hands—craft paint, buttons, beads, ladies hand-kerchiefs, spray paint and the list goes on. If you would like to donate, contact Bonnie Sargent (see directory) if you have any questions or items to donate.



News from the INN

Well, Christmas is well past, but not forgotten. As you know, the INN is a 24/7 operation, meaning that volunteers spent their Christmas Eve and Christmas Day providing safety, shelter, comfort, compassion and plenty of joy as they celebrated and worshiped with the guests. St. Mark's choirs and Sunday School generously filled over 50 stockings for the traveling road-weary children who had been separated from their homes weeks prior. Also, the junior high kids made traveling blankets for the children which were a tremendous hit!

The grant from UMCOR for improvements is being carefully spent. Results include better utilization of limited space, commercial washers and dryers, better storage and kitchen function, improved ventilation, improved bathrooms and showers. It's complicated to update the infrastructure (plumbing and electric) of an old building that's now become a permanent host site. The church has generously designated an upstairs room to manage and disperse clothes. Additionally, clothing racks donated from store closings, makes the process easier and creates a more manageable scene.



ICE continues to keep us on our toes filling the INN to capacity one day, while the next day they drive a busload directly to Phoenix even when the INN has vacancies here. At least, we have stopped them

from dropping people on the street, in Tucson at night, to make their own way! It can't be easy for ICE employees either as directives keep changing.

I am overwhelmed by the generosity of St. Mark's. While we may be one of the more distant churches, our presence is well known and appreciated at the INN. We continue to need volunteers, financial support, clothing for children and small and medium-sized adult clothing. Used backpacks or duffel bags (in good condition) permit travelers to blend in when traveling, rather than carrying personal items in clear plastic bag labeled ICE.

Ways to help:

Volunteer: <http://dscumc.org/secure/ip-registration>

Monetary Donations: <https://dscumc.org/secure/ip-donation>

Again, thank you! I ask God to bless each of you for your compassion and generosity. Also, I ask Him to help our travelers. We cannot possibly comprehend the fear that drives these families from their homes, leaving all behind. May God bring positive changes to their home countries.

Yours in Christ, Kathie Barrett

New Member Class of February 2019



Bob Benson

Bob grew up on a farm in southwestern Wisconsin and received his degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin. He spent his career working with Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids, IA. He has adult sons, Kevin (SC), and Brian (CA), both of whom have families. Bob is a docent at the Titan Missile Museum and enjoys working on home repairs and projects. He plans to participate here on our sound team and Habitat for Humanity projects. He attends *The Gathering* and Ron and Helen Schindler are his sponsors.



Darcy and George Halvorson

Darcy and George are relatively new to Tucson. Darcy contracted Valley Fever soon after her arrival and we're grateful for her recovery and for the fact that her illness didn't chase them away! In fact, she'd like to be involved in raising awareness about this disease. George stays busy as a Proposal Manager and Darcy has worked in Information Technology and as a floral designer. George likes playing racquetball, collecting model trains, and cooking in his leisure time. Darcy is passionate about causes and an animal lover—they have two cats and a dog. George tells us she has a wide band of creative talents including drawing, writing, and singing. They both hope to become involved with our Nash Neighbors Program. They attend the 9:45 a.m. service; sponsors are Mark and Marjie Hrabe.



Lee and Mavis Kuld

Lee and Mavis Kuld both claim Tyler, MN as their hometown and they have fond memories of growing up in that Danish community. They spent their career years in California—Lee with Pacific Bell Telephone and Mavis in a public elementary school office—before coming to Tucson. Their son, Peter, and his family live in NC and daughter, Amy, works in home healthcare here in Tucson. Lee lists playing golf, watching sporting events, and traveling as his leisure hobbies. Mavis likes sewing, golfing and entertaining. Mavis plans to become involved with our Prayer Quilt ministry. They attend the 9:45 a.m. service and their sponsors are Bill and Sally Harris.



Ginni Schomisch

Ginni has come to Tucson from Wisconsin to live with her daughter, Dawn. Ginni still has family in WI—two sisters and her son John and his wife. Ginni retired from a career as an Administrative Assistant and liked to crochet and knit and do card stamping in her leisure time. She hopes to be involved with our prayer and missions teams and she is part of our Chronic Illness/Pain and Wellness Group. Ginni attends *The Gathering* and her sponsor is April DuBoce.



Kurt Storey

Kurt has come to Tucson to be with his father, Tom. Kurt was a career Naval Officer serving as an Aero Engineer. He has two grown daughters, Julia at nursing school in ID and Brenna, a student at Brigham Young University. Kurt is very active in outdoor sports: marathons, Iron Man events and cycling. He attends the 9:45 a.m. service. Kurt's sponsors are Harold and Susan Putt.



Tom Storey

Tom comes to us with an amazing personal history that includes teaching at the university level, living in Japan for fifteen years and serving in the USAF (spending 6.5 years as a POW during the Vietnam War). Tom and his wife, Sylvia, will celebrate sixty-four years of marriage this May. They have two children, Kurt (joining with his dad) and Pam, who lives in Texas. They have five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Tom plans to be part of the Over 50s group. He attends the 9:45 a.m. service. Tom's sponsors are Harold and Susan Putt.



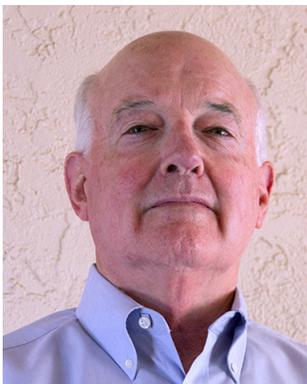
Jane Streubel

Jane and her husband, Don, divide their time between Tucson and Pocatello, ID. Jane was born and raised on a dairy farm in southern WI and was very active in 4-H during her teens. She received both her Bachelor and Masters from the University of Wisconsin and taught grades 4-8 in Wisconsin, Germany, Alaska, and Idaho. She has been active in the Methodist Church, League of Women Voters, ISU Women, and environmental groups. Jane and Don have two children: David, with wife and two children in Anchorage and Dan, with wife and child in Idaho. Now, Jane enjoys riding her horse and exploring new trails. Her many interests include nature, travel, politics, and (as a senior fan) sports. Jane intends to be involved here in mission work and with the Grace Circle. She attends the 8:15 a.m. service and her sponsor is Lee Lansing.



Elizabeth and John Vaughan

Elizabeth and John both grew up in Illinois and raised their children in Downers Grove and Westmont, Illinois. Both now retired from careers in advertising, (John ran his advertising business for forty years in IL) they like being a part of clubs and activities in SaddleBrooke. They both enjoy pickleball, dancing and golf. Elizabeth adds sewing, reading and cooking to her list while John adds playing baseball. Their son lives and works in Indianapolis and their daughter works in Chicago. They usually attend the 9:45 a.m. service and their sponsors are Jim and Judi Nibbelink.



Dick Williams

Dick comes to us from Indianapolis where he was self-employed. Now in Tucson, he is really enjoying our southwest desert by hiking and exploring outdoors. Dick has a grown son, Seth, in Colorado. He is glad to be sharing Tucson and St. Mark's with his brother, Tom, who joined here in May of 2017. Dick hopes to be involved in our many St. Mark's ministries and usually attends the 9:45 service. His sponsors are LuAnn and Alan Roberts.

WASS UP?

February 20, 2019

Volume 20, Issue 4



UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

February 24, 2019—



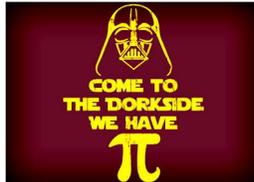
2:30 to ???
U of A Hockey
IceCats vs. ASU

March 3, 2019—

4:00 to 6:00
"You'll be Blown Away"
Kite Day at a local park

March 10, 2019—

4:00 to 6:00
High School
Discussion Study
(secret pie location)



Middle School
Mini Pies to take home

March 17, 2019—

4:00 to 6:00
St. Patrick's Scavenger Hunt

Howdy preteens,
Wow that was fast.... February literally just flew by. It's hard to believe it's been a year since I joined your group. What a fun filled and blessed year it has been. As we move into March, remember the "Golden Rule" and that God asks us to raise the bar and put ourselves in someone else's shoes.

Blessings, Julie

February 24th-

Rodeo Days, a Tucson tradition
Rodeo themed activities.

March 3rd-

Outdoor Adventure (off campus)
You will need closed toe shoes and a jacket.

March 10th-

March Madness
Bring a basketball if you have one.
(Preferably with air in it)



March 17th-

St. Patrick's Day
All things Green

Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf

a note from the

YOUTH DIRECTOR

The High School discussion study, that takes place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, is going very well. It's been wonderful to have the opportunity to get together off campus and look closely at different Bible passages. Being off campus helps set a different tone for the discussions. (Starbucks helps with that.)

In Matthew 18:20, Jesus says, "When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there." (from the Message)

Blessings,
Kim

P.S. If any adults want to help with this program by donating Starbucks cards, we'll gratefully accept them.



Middle School Moments

Last week, we all worked together to bring a smile to the faces of everyone who attended church. You guys are amazing! The parking lot looked so cool with all those little cards! Thank you so much to everyone who signed cards, who put them out, and who kept our secret!

Remember, you don't have to wait until it's a national holiday! Random Acts of Kindness are always a great idea, and can bring a smile to anyone's face. You guys rock.

See you Sunday!
Rachel



MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION

MAY 28-31, 2019



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03-6 Moses Hala'ufia
03-12 Benjamin Fish
03-16 Makenna Walsh

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.

Jared Bowman & family
Clara and Michael Campbell
Donald Chester
Shelley Shelton Coltrin
Judy Drescher

Keith & Mary Ann Glazier
Carolyn Hanna
David & Floretta Harrington
Patricia Keele
Wanda & Ray Loughney

Jean Ogle
Gina Russell
Marian Shultis
Carol Underwood
Jackie Vickers

Connie White
Lindsay Williams

CONDOLENCES: We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to Sue Urton and family upon the passing of Sue's husband, Norm, Tuesday, February 5, 2019.

Called Together by Grace: One Body

Saturday, March 2

Nevada: 9:00-11:00 a.m., with fellowship at 11a.m.

Arizona: 10:00 am – noon, with fellowship at 9:30 a.m.

You are invited to join laity and clergy from across our conference for a time to gather in worship as a community, experience our covenant together, and affirm our shared vision and values. I will share a message of hope and unity, including conversations about the implementation of the General Conference 2019 legislation. In preparation, I invite you to read Colossians 3: 12-17 and to be in prayer that God's spirit will be present in moments of grace, reconciliation, faith, love and hope. "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful."

This event will take place simultaneously at one of four UMC locations, with the sites connected via video technology:

- Shepherd of the Hills, 13658 W Meeker Blvd, Sun City West, AZ
- St. Matthew, 2540 Baseline Rd, Mesa, AZ
- St. Paul, 8051 E Broadway Blvd, Tucson, AZ
- Desert Spring, 120 Pavilion Center Dr, Las Vegas, NV

If you need childcare during this event, contact Carla Whitmire (cwhitmire@dscumc.org or 602-798-8236) with names and ages of children. If you have questions about the event, contact Julie O'Neal (joneal@dscumc.org or 602-798-8209).

Market On The Move!

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

First Saturdays - 8 to 10 a.m.

**\$10 buys 60 lbs.
of fresh produce!**

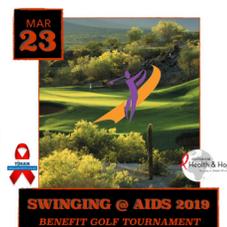


Corner of W. Magee & LaCanda

Saturday March 2, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Volunteers needed at 7a.m. (set up) and 10 a.m. (cleanup). Contact Lenna Burnham (see directory). Vouchers are available for people with hardships. Also you may pick up produce at 9:30 a.m. for your pets.

5th Annual Tucson Swinging@AIDS Golf Tournament and Silent Auction

Presented in collaboration with The Center for Health and Hope (Denver, CO), the event benefits the programs and services of both TIHAN and the Children of Africa Hope Mission School in Nairobi, Kenya, founded in 2006 in response to the needs and suffering of orphans and other vulnerable children in the slums of Nairobi.



Friday, March 22

Concert Heather Hardy & The Lil' Mama Band

Monterey Court Café (505 W Miracle Mile). Doors open 6 p.m., Show starts at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$20 and a portion of food/beverage orders will support our programs as well.

Saturday, March 23, Golf tournament/silent auction El Conquistador Golf Club

8 a.m. (scramble-style) shotgun start. \$125 registration fee includes greens fees, meal, prizes and a \$50 donation.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please consider volunteering for either event. Call Linda Girard (see directory). There are a host of ways to support and sponsor Swinging@AIDS! Please contact Jess Losoya (520-447-6852 or visit www.swingingat aids.org) to register, purchase tickets, become a sponsor, and learn more.

Over 50s Lunch Group

This month the group meets March 5, 11:30 a.m. at the Olive Garden (near Tucson Mall) at 4500 N Oracle Rd. Everyone is welcome to join this group. There is always lively conversation with

new and old friends. Please contact Deb Brown (see directory) if you plan to attend.



Calendar Notes

Fri., Feb. 22

9:30 a.m. Open Minds Book Discussion, Library
7:00 p.m. UA Symphonic Choir Concert, Sanctuary

Sun., Feb. 24

7:00 a.m. Blood Drive
9:45 a.m. No Confirmation today
4:00 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. Preteens, Rm 8/9
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Off Campus

Tues., Feb. 26

6:00 p.m. BECKET movie, Fellowship Hall

Wed., Feb. 27

10:30 a.m. Chronic Illness, Library
Noon BULLETIN DEADLINE
5:45 p.m. Soul Station Dinner, Fellowship Hall
6:20 p.m. Soul Station Worship, Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m. Common Grounds, Library

Thurs., Feb. 28

Noon MESSENGER DEADLINE
6:00 p.m. Technology Committee, Conf Rm

Sat., March 2

7:00 a.m. Parking Lot Sale, Youth Fundraiser
9:00 a.m. Market On The Move, parking lot



St. Mark's Messenger

Published bi-weekly

St. Mark's UMC
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Email:

info@umcstmarks.org

Website:

www.umcstmarks.org

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Sharon Ragland

Associate Pastors:

Stuart Salvatierra

Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald

Sunday Worship:

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

*Live-streamed at

www.umcstmarks.org

Soul Station

Wednesday Night:

Dinner - 5:45 p.m.

Music/Programs

6:15-7:15 p.m.

Dear Church Family ...



I want to thank all of you for the beautiful quilt and for the strength and prayers that accompany each knot. I was overwhelmed with the generosity from people whom I have never met and the compassion that people in your church have shown to my mother, Ellen Beene. No mother wants to receive the phone call that their child has cancer. Your support has given her courage. As I travel this journey, I will treasure the quilt and the love that is sewn into it.

With gratitude, Lynn Aberger

Thank you to these wonderful St. Mark's volunteers who helped host POZ Cafe in December 2018.

The dinner dance holiday party served 235 people living with HIV and their guests. We had a fabulous time! This big event is sponsored by TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network). Thank you to Pastor Stuart, Pat Small, Carol Fouch, Casey Compernelle, Pastor Paul, Linda Girard, Sandi Heilman and Sally Mettler for volunteering their time, energy and compassionate care.

Thank you to St. Mark's UMC for being a founding member of TIHAN, a nonprofit celebrating 25 years of providing compassionate and non-judgmental service to those affected by HIV/AIDS. Through education and support, we as individuals and faith communities work to build bridges, reduce stigma and sustain hope.

Linda Girard—Chair, HIV/AIDS



Logo Shop Items on Sale!

St. Mark's Logo Shop items will go on sale March 10, 17.



Look for the table in the courtyard, between services both Sundays. We only take orders for our great shirts and caps twice a year, so don't miss this chance to stock up. Also, other terrific "in-stock" items will be for sale. (Just as they are weekly through the church office and online). Items like the great, clear-plastic sports utility tote that is perfect for stadium-entry events. Other items include a large, sturdy utility tote, a hot/cold carrier, an insulated mini-tote, or grocery and lunch bags. No home should be without these useful items! Remember, payment is due at the time of purchase/order, so come prepared to support St. Mark's!

Address Service Requested

If you would like to receive the Messenger electronically, and discontinue your paper copy, submit a request to messenger@umcstmarks.org

Reflections

Many matters for prayer are on my heart today. My heart sings in thanksgiving for rain, early spring wildflowers and the beauty all around us. I give thanks for our church and its many active volunteers who give so generously of time and talents. My gratitude pours out to God for the privilege of serving with you, Stuart, Evy and our staff.

Then my prayer shifts to asking God for hope and healing. Many in our congregation have faced sorrow, illness, surgeries and uncertain futures because of health or financial issues. I name some of them in my heart and entrust all of them to God's tender and powerful hand. My heart longs for people to be well.

I ask God to continue to help me and others lead our congregation. As we pray and work toward a second site for worship and ministry, I pray for God to guide us, give us what we need in people and resources, and help us reach those who need to hear the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ.

I pray for those preparing for new opportunities and challenges in ministry. I am always praying for you, members and friends of St. Mark's, for the ways God is guiding you to serve, give, and lead. I pray for Pastor Stuart as he continues on his journey in ministry, and for Kim Ogle, as she explores a call to become a Licensed Local Pastor. Our staff is always on my heart as I pray to God, asking for each person and their families to be well and able to use their gifts, to explore new challenges, to work as a team to help all of us *change the world through Christ by caring for all people*.

This week I'm praying for our United Methodist Church. As delegates

gather in St. Louis for the Special General Conference February 23-26, 2019, I pray that their decisions around our relationships with LGBTQ people might be focused on God's will and desires for us as humble human beings, created and loved by God. May all the delegates be wise and humble, kind and committed to the best for God's church – not our church, but God's church.

I pray for our world, for all those places where there is violence and hurt, that God might guide leaders and us in bringing hope and healing. I pray for all leaders, that their hearts might beat with the heart of God's compassion and longings, using their power to bring about God's justice for all people.

In April, 2020, a group of us will journey to Great Britain to connect with the historic roots of our Methodist tradition, visiting the places important to John Wesley's life and exploring the beauty and history of the area. If you are interested in knowing more about this journey, a brochure is available at <https://shared-assets.adobe.com/link/fb8c0bd1-444f-4b05-53e5-b8d7f7568a6f> I pray for all those who are considering this journey or who have already registered. Another information meeting will be held at 12:45 p.m. on March 24, 2019, in Fellowship Hall. Or contact me at sharon@umcstmarks.org.

I welcome your prayers. What if we held one another, our church, the UMC, and all God's people in prayer each day, asking God for guidance, hope, and healing? God is with us. We are not alone. Praise God!
Blessings, Sharon