

Messenger

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

Volume 59, Number 8

April 17, 2019

St. Mark's
United Methodist



Easter Services, April 21

Join us Sunday, April 21 as we celebrate the joy and new life of Easter. A variety of worship experiences will help you enter into the love of Christ.

You are welcome to bring a fresh flower to decorate the Floral Cross located in the courtyard near the Sanctuary entrance.

Sermon: *All Is Made New!*

6:00 a.m. — Sunrise Service

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

7:00 - 10:30 a.m. — Pancake Breakfast

Breakfast served on the west patio, sponsored by the St. Mark's youth. Donations benefit the youth mission project.

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

A service with traditional hymns accompanied by Chancel Choir, organ and brass.

**This service will be live streamed.*

11:15 a.m. — The Gathering

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

Special Easter Offering

This year our Easter mission offering will be divided equally between UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and SSP (Sierra Service Project - youth missions). Offering envelopes were mailed to your home. You can also pick one up from the narthex table, or go to www.umcstmarks.org (GIVING) to give online. These two organizations speak to the question of "Who is our neighbor?"

SSP is an ecumenical Christian nonprofit organization providing life-changing service projects in low-income communities. The organization helps young people discover the connection between faith and service, exemplifying God's unconditional love for all. St. Mark's youth have participated in this program for the past 33 years.



UMCOR is often first on the scene of disasters here in the United States and around the world and the last to leave. Volunteers offer emergency relief assistance for victims of floods, fires, tornados, and other humanitarian disasters. 100% of the funds given to UMCOR go directly to alleviate suffering.



Meal Packaging MISSION PROJECT

Sun., April 28, 12:30 p.m.

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a family-friendly mission project as we team up with Rise Against Hunger to package 10,000+ meals!

The process is very precise and lots of fun! We work in an assembly line to package **AGAINST HUNGER** meals, box them and prepare them for shipment. It takes about 90 minutes to complete. You will have fun working on this important service project and get to know more of your St. Mark's community.



Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

Summer Is Coming!

Here are some opportunities presented by Adult Spiritual Growth to keep you connected during the hot summer months. Watch for more information on these classic movies and these great books in future issues of our newsletter.

Summer Movie Series

We're reviving this summer event with three family-friendly movies.

They are all scheduled on Monday evenings in the Fellowship Hall, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The popcorn will be waiting for you—bring the entire family!

JUNE 10

***The Secret Garden*,**
hosted by Linda Walker

JULY 15

Mary Poppins (the original),
hosted by Marlyce Wright

AUG. 5

***Up*,** hosted by Judy Boroto

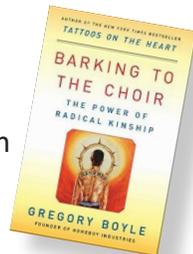


Summer Book Discussions

We will gather on Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the church Library. One book has been selected each month for your summer reading enjoyment. Read the book and join the discussions. It's a great way to meet more people from our St. Mark's family.

June 24

Barking to the Choir:
The Power of Radical Kinship
by Gregory Boyle. Led by Sandi Heilman

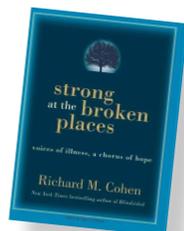


July 29

Small Great Things
by Jodi Picoult. Led by Margaret Synhorst

Aug. 26

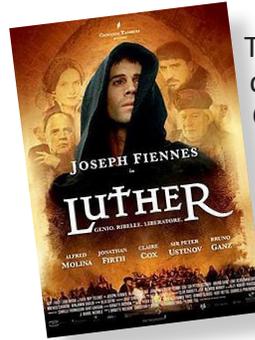
Strong at the Broken Places: Voices of Illness, a Chorus of Hope,
by Richard M. Cohen. Led by Art Ragland



Heroes Of The Faith Movie Series

Tues., April, 23 at 6:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

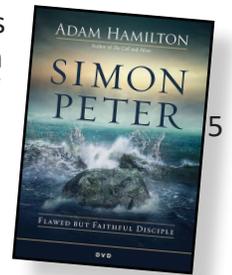
LUTHER. This film from 2003 will be the next in our "Heroes of the Faith" film series at St. Mark's. Join us as we see this movie starring Joseph Fiennes, Alfred Molina and Sir Peter Ustinov.



The film traces Martin Luther's courageous actions that changed the Church of his time. Regional princes and the powerful Church had a firm grip on 16th century Germany. Luther issues a shocking challenge to their authority and the people declare him their new leader—and hero. Even when he is threatened with violent death, Martin refuses to back down, and he sparks a bloody revolution that shakes Europe and the Christian faith to its core.

Sharing/Family Life—New Study

Join our adult Sunday School class Sharing/Family Life at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays in Rm 17/18. A new book/DVD, six-week study begins May (thru June 9). ***Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple*,** by Adam Hamilton

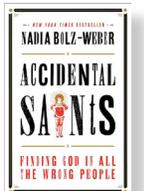
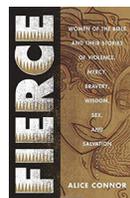


Open Minds Book Discussion

The Open Minds Book Discussion Group will meet next on Friday, April 26 at 9:30 a.m. in the Library.

We'll be discussing the ***Accidental Saints*** by Nadia Bolz-Weber and ***Fierce*** by Alice Connor. Both books are a bit irreverent, and both authors are clergy. Choose one and join us in April! Everyone is welcome.

Accidental Saints "demonstrates what happens when ordinary people share bread and wine, struggle with Scripture together and tell one another the truth about their real lives... their faltering steps toward wholeness will ring true for believer and skeptic alike."



Fierce tells stories of the women of the Bible, beginning with the four who are listed in Jesus' genealogy.

Membership 101 Class

Have you been considering membership at St. Mark's? Would you simply like to know a little more about this terrific church? There is a great opportunity coming soon that might be just right for you!

Membership 101 will be offered on Sunday, May 5 in the church Library from 12:30 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. You are warmly invited to join us as Pastor Sharon provides information about UMC history and places in the world today, as well as sharing some of her personal story. We'll have a chance to get to know more about THIS church—fun facts about our beginning and a quick look back through the decades at St. Mark's.



At the conclusion of this session, those interested in joining St. Mark's will be taken into membership on Sunday, May 19. Also, some short-term classes will be planned as follow-up to Membership 101 for those interested.

You may register for the class online; by signing the class list on the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board in the courtyard Sunday mornings; or by calling Janie in the church office (297-2062). *Please note: checking "wish to join" on the pew pad slip is not the same as actually registering for the class.*

Exploring What We Believe

A two-session "short-course" will be offered for those who want to expand their awareness and knowledge of The United Methodist Church and their faith. All persons are welcome – long-time members, new members and those who are considering becoming members. Linda Walker, long-time adult educator at St. Mark's, will lead the discussions.

Linda wrote: "The first week we will have the chance to explore thoughts about God, Jesus and the Spirit—and the importance of people's relationships with them. We'll also have the opportunity to discuss faith growing and maturing over a lifetime. The second week, we'll explore the Bible: what's in it, ways of interpretation, reading and studying it tips, etc. We will also be speaking about God's grace."

A sign-up sheet will be available on the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board, or you may register online www.umstmarks.org. The sessions will be at 11:00 a.m., Sundays, June 2 and June 9.

VBS 2019!

This year, Vacation Bible School is June 3-7. Registration is open for all children ages three years through 6th grade.



The cost is:

- Mornings, 9:00–12:15 p.m., \$30/child.
- Extended Childcare, 12:15–4:00 p.m., \$80/child (\$110 total/child).

Our theme this year is LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR! This year the preschool children will have all kinds of fun and learning in their own area. Elementary children will have music, missions, peaceful martial arts, and more! We will have a great time learning to love like Jesus did. Make your registration and payment on the website at www.umcstmarks.org (MINISTRIES, VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL).

Please complete a separate form for each child. Space is limited, and the registration deadline is Friday, May 24. Printed registration forms are also available from the church office.

SOUL STATION Super Summer Spectacular!

Looking for something a little different to do this summer? How about sharing an interest or a talent at one or two Wednesday evenings (June 5 - July 31) during Soul Station.

This summer, the Soul Station schedule will be slightly different. Dinner will still be served at 5:45 p.m. followed by a short children's time, Holy Communion then everyone will go to their class. There will still be a program for the children.

Then plan is to offer three different classes each Wednesday. One class will be led by a pastor; Adult Spiritual Growth will offer a Life Studies class; and the third class offering is where we need help from you.

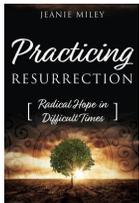
Opportunities for the third class are only limited by the talents of our congregation—in other words, they are limitless.

Are you a photographer? Would you like to lead a book discussion for a week or two? How about drawing? Please contact Kim Ogle (kim@umcstmarks.org), Pastor Stuart (stuart@umcstmarks.org) or Pastor Evy (Evy@umcstmarks.org) or call the office (297-2062) and leave your name and number and we'll return your call.

Mission u Scholarships

The Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women offers a really good study opportunity called Mission u every summer. Mission u will be held at Catalina UMC, Tucson on Friday, Aug. 23 and Saturday, Aug. 24. Information, registration forms, and cost to attend will be available soon.

The following book studies will be offered:



Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship
by Janet Wolf

Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission
by Ellen Blue

What About Our Money? A Faith Response
by Susan Taylor

Right now, though there are Scholarship Application forms that cover all expenses (from our South District) for one youth or two women, who would be first-time attendees:

- ▶ The Marilyn Jean Chapman Scholarship is for a woman to attend for the first time, with no age restriction.
- ▶ The Marilyn Sue Stout Scholarship is for a youth (age 14 to 17 years) or a young woman (18 to 30 years old) to attend for the first time.

If you, or someone you know, would like to go to Mission u, and this would be your first time to attend, please pick up a Scholarship Application form in the UM Women mailbox in the church office. The forms must be mailed by Friday, May 31. If you have questions, or need assistance, please contact Clara Campbell or Alberta Farnsworth.

Wesleyan Living

Join us for a three-week discussion (May 5, 12, and 19) about the questions John Wesley used in some of the first Methodist gatherings. We will spend one week on God, one on others, and one on ourselves. Class meets on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. in the church Library. Please contact Margaret Synhorst (margaret@umcstmarks.org) or call the church office (297-2062) if you would like more information about the class.

20 Volunteers Needed!



Habitat For Humanity *Brush With Kindness* is a cleanup, beautification, painting and minor repair project focused on the revitalization of distressed neighborhoods.

St Mark's has committed to a half-day work project from **7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., May 11, 2019**. Twenty volunteers are needed! We will carpool from the south parking lot at 6:45 a.m. The project is located 30 minutes from the church in the Cardinal/Valencia area. The house is owned by Sally and her husband Albert, since 2006. Sally's daughter died leaving them to raise two granddaughters (one in high school and one starting college). Sally and Albert are on disability and find it difficult to keep up outside maintenance after knee and lower spine injury surgery and upcoming back surgery.

Won't you help? Most of the work is painting and putting the finishing touches on other home repairs already completed by Habitat. Maybe some light landscape. A sign-up sheet is on the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board. We need YOU! Remember to wear close-toed shoes and bring hats, sunscreen. Habitat provides snacks and water! For more information call Casey Compennolle (see directory) or Lenna Burnham (see directory).

Finance Report

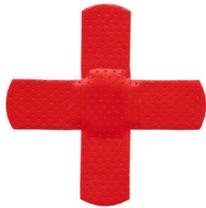
The Finance Committee is pleased to report that St. Mark's finances are strong for the first quarter of 2019. **MANY THANKS FOR THE CONTINUED GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT FOR ST. MARK'S MINISTRIES!** From Treasurer's Report (as of 03/31/2019)

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance to Budget
Total Income	\$331,699.69	\$307,104.00	+\$24,595.69
Total Expenses	\$277,388.93	\$308,119.00	(\$30,730.07)
YTD Difference (Surplus)	\$54,310.76	(\$1,015.00)	\$55,325.76

Can You Help? Volunteers Needed!

Have you noticed the two seats in the Sanctuary labeled **Reserved for Medical Assistants**? Sometimes they are empty. The Safety Ministry needs volunteers to be available to help individuals who may have a medical emergency. Ideally, we need two people at every service and at all major events that occur in the Sanctuary.

You do not have to be a nurse or a doctor, but you do need CPR and First Aid training. We periodically have someone from the Fire Department provide training for us. If you are willing to help once a month, or when you attend a special event, please contact Pastor Evy (evy@umcstmarks.org).



Safety Ministry Update

Our safety team has been working these past two years with the Trustees and the Ushers to help make our campus safer, while maintaining its warm, welcoming atmosphere.



Our Medical Team has improved our First Aid kits and developed procedures for medical emergencies, primarily in the Sanctuary. We have been aware that a medical need could arise in a small group meeting. In fact, there have

been several emergencies throughout our campus. In several instances individuals were unsure what to do.

This prompted the Safety Ministry to develop three emergency reference cards that list very basic guidelines and suggestions. These cards will be available in every classroom and are only intended to give basic guidelines.

Medical Reference Card—reviews basic questions to ask persons who are injured or in distress. Gives specific information you need to know if you call 911.

PTSD Reference Card—(*post-traumatic stress syndrome*) gives a brief overview of what PTSD is and the symptoms. Lists specific directions of what to do or to avoid.

Disruptive Persons Reference Card—provides an overview of a disruptive person situation. Gives general actions to take based on different scenarios. We realize you will not be able to read all the information during an emergency, so we suggest you review the cards and become familiar with some actions you may take. We welcome any questions or feedback. Contact Pastor Evy (evy@umcstmarks.org).

Craft Circle Meets April 23

St. Mark's United Methodist Women would like to invite you to join our newly formed Craft Circle. The Craft Circle will meet the fourth Tuesday of every month in Rm 17/18, 9:00 a.m. until noon. Come for an hour or two if you have time constraints. Bring your craft ideas or examples of your favorite craft. You may work on your craft, or help others with a craft for the UMW craft fairs in November and December. Its great fun and fellowship, and everyone is welcome. Please contact Bonnie Sargent (azsgt1@yahoo.com) if you have questions.



Supplies Needed: We are in need of small and medium sized flat buttons. Also, thanks to those who have provided donations. We will continue to collect fabric, buttons, ribbon, thread spools, felt, lace, beads and other "craft supply" items that you wish to donate.

Matter of Balance Class

Many older adults experience a fear of falling. When they develop this fear they often limit their activities, which can result in physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. A Matter of Balance is a series of classes designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults.



The program is designed to benefit older adults who:

- Are concerned about falls
- Sustained falls in the past
- Restrict activities due to falling concerns
- Interested in improving your flexibility/balance/strength
- Are age 60 or older, community-dwelling and able to problem-solve.

Where: Rm 20 – St. Mark's UMC

When: Monday and Wednesday, 9-11 a.m.
(April 29 thru May 20)

Cost: \$20 per person or \$30 per couple

Please call PCOA to register (520-305-3410). This class is sponsored by Pima County On Aging.

Spring Dinner/Gala

Spring Gala on May 6, 6 pm.
Marriott University Park

Enjoy a great meal and live music while being inspired by Jack Farmer and some local unsung heroes. And, you'll hear about some exciting, monumental changes for Sold No More.

Our guest speaker, Jack Farmer, was a counter intelligence operative and commander who served in the Marines, FBI, CIA, DEA, DHS, and Secret Service. Leaders in those agencies call him, "The greatest hero you've never heard of." He challenges us to step up and protect children from exploitation in our own spheres of influence—including our homes.

Only \$25 per ticket, although our cost is \$50 per person. (Jack Farmer is not accepting a speaking fee.) Tickets available online at www.SoldNoMore.org.



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. You may also, visit our Prayer Room on campus and leave a prayer on our prayer wall.

Ellen Beene
Jared Bowman & family
Clara Campbell
Donald Chester
Shelley Shelton Coltrin

Judy Drescher
Keith and Mary Ann Glazier
Floretta Harrington
Patricia Keele
Marian Shultis

Carol Underwood
Jackie Vickers
Dave and Jan Webster
Connie White
Lindsay Williams

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Mary Lou Moore and the Moore family on the passing of Ronald Moore on April 2, 2019. A memorial service at St. Mark's is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 23.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

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

Hank Bautzmann, son of Nancy Bautzmann
Alex Boettcher, grandson of Carla and Paul Boettcher
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
Christopher Lewis, grandson of Donald Lewis

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?

April 17, 2019

Volume 20, Issue 7



UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

April 21, 2019—



No Sunday School, Confirmation, or Youth Group
Eat pancakes, and attend worship.

April 28, 2019—

4:00 to 6:00
High School
Prayer Walk (off campus)
Middle School
Way of the Cross Walk

May 5, 2019—

4:00 to 6:00
Mission Project & Silly Videos

May 12, 2019—

Confirmation Sunday
Mother's Day
No Youth Group

Greetings PreTeen's,

Holy Week marks the end of Lent and Jesus' journey to the Cross. It also marks the beginning of our everyday walk with Jesus. Walking with Jesus means that we are doing our best to be His hands and feet in the world and to show others that His light really does shine through the cracks. Don't forget to bring your plastic grocery bags to church for the youth group to recycle for their Earth Day project (4/22). Hope to see you all at church on Easter Sunday! Blessings, Julie

April 21st - Easter Sunday
No Pre Teen

April 28th - "He is Risen" celebration at Riverfront park. Dress appropriately for playing outside. Everyone needs a permission slip.

May 5th-
Sounds like a good day for chips and salsa !!!!



Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf

a note from the

YOUTH DIRECTOR

Welcome to Holy Week, the week commemorates Jesus' last days on Earth. The Confirmands will be participating in Holy Thursday and Good Friday services, as well as the Sunrise service on Easter Sunday. Attendance at those services is not just for Confirmation students. It's for all of us. We ALL need to take time to reflect on the journey to the cross.

Then, on Easter morning, we get to enjoy all of the joy of the resurrection, with "Halleluiah! Christ is Risen!"

See you Easter morning.

Blessings,
Kim

Middle School Moments

Last week at youth group, we had a blast! We went to feed the animals at Rooster Cogburn's Ostrich Ranch. It was amazing to see all of the different animals there.

On our way home, we were talking about what parts were our favorite and it was so hard to pick one! The Lori-keets are so smart, and the goats made me laugh so much. But each and every animal there was so cool and had its own personality! It was funny.

It was like being in a big group of people. Some of the animals wanted to be the center of attention, and would follow you as you walked down the line, so they would get more treats! Others couldn't even be bothered to stand up. It was funny. And so cool. It reminded me in so many ways of being with a lot of people. Some people want all of the attention, some just want to sleep. And some follow all the rules! Whoever you are in that crowd, celebrate the unique characteristics God gave you! You are special. You are unique. You are you.

See you Sunday! Rachel

Youth 2019 registration is closed, but you still have time to register for Middle School Mission and SSP.

What are you waiting for?

You don't want to miss these great summer opportunities!!

Btw, did you notice that 8th graders are eligible for all three?

summer
2019

Put these on your calendar:

May 29-31= Middle School Mission (Grades 6-8)

June 28-July 5= Sierra Service Project (Grades 8-12)

July 10-14= Youth 2019 in Kansas City (Grades 8-12)

Calendar Notes

Sat., April 20

10:00 a.m. Holy Saturday Service, Memorial Chapel

Sun., April 21

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service, Labyrinth

7:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast

8:15 a.m. Easter Service, Sanctuary

9:45 a.m. Easter Service, Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. The Gathering, Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. No Holy Yoga, Rm 17/18

4:00 p.m. No Youth Group, Wesley House

4:00 p.m. No PreTeens, Rm 8/9

Mon., April 22

OFFICE IS CLOSED

9:15 a.m. No Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall

Tues., April 23

3:00 p.m. Ron Moore Memorial, Fellowship Hall

Wed., April 24

10:30 a.m. Chronic Pain/Illness, Fellowship Hall

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., April 25

Noon MESSENGER DEADLINE

6:30 p.m. Technology Committee, Conf Rm

Fri., April 26

2:00 p.m. John Cole Memorial, Fellowship Hall



St. Mark's Messenger

Published bi-weekly

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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.

*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 always knew St. Mark's was a great community, but since my fall and broken arm I have had such an outpouring of love and care. Thank you to Pastor Sharon, the church staff, and everyone for all the visits, cards, calls and concern. Also to the Celebration Singers, especially Lira and Dave Camp, for stepping up on short notice. God is good and so are the people of St. Mark's.

Sondra Franks

Thank you, everyone, for the telephone calls, visits, kindness and cards during David's illness. He fought hard to stay with us, but in the end he knew it was time to make the journey to be with our Heavenly Father. A thank you, also, to Pastor Sharon, Pastor Stuart and Pastor Evy for their many visits and comforting words. We are blessed to have you at St. Mark's.

*Blessings and love,
Floretta Harrington; Donna & Carlos Contreras;
Kevin Harrington; Debbie & Fred Catalano*

Thank you for showing me in these recent months what it truly means to have a "church family." I can't tell you how much I appreciated the prayers, pastor visits, prayer shawl, cards, gifts, more prayers, and visits. It's been a long and interesting journey since November and it's comforting to know so many people care and have been routing for me.

Thank you, Shelley Shelton Coltrin

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the entire Handy Hands Ministry for installing grab bars around my apartment. I feel much safer as a result of their care. A special thanks to Curt Adams who did beautiful installations and Susan Zimmerman for being a wonderful coordinator.

April DuBoce

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

New Life!

When I was a little girl there was no guarantee that we would not be freezing on Easter in our new Easter dresses, gloves and hats. Usually we had to wear coats and boots because of uncertain Michigan weather. We had to look for signs of new life in the tiny crocus buds pushing through the cold earth.

We don't have that problem here in Tucson. In fact, we're more likely to be too warm on Easter, especially when it's late like it is this year. As we know, we've had an extra-beautiful spring with abundant wildflowers, blue skies and cool temperatures. Signs of life are all around us!

When we gather for Easter sunrise worship at 6 a.m. on April 21st, the sun will already be peaking over the Catalina mountains to the east of us. As we sing about Christ's resurrection, there will be birds and flowers and babies all around us to remind us of new life. Praise God!

I've felt like Easter has been a long time coming this year. We've talked during Lent about ***there is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.*** We've pondered many ways that Christ comes to us in the difficulties, uncertainties and struggles of life, breaking through the

dark places to bring life. For me, Lent has been a deep and rich time of prayer, pondering God's goodness in all of life, enjoying music and listening to and being with people.

Now I'm ready for Easter! This week we'll walk with Jesus to the upper room for the Last Supper, then to the cross and the grave. My spirit is already longing for the celebration of resurrection, new life and hope. I know Easter is just around the corner. I feel like a child at Christmas, "how many more days till.....Easter?!" Yes, my spirit waits in eager anticipation for the celebration that is coming.

Remember that our Easter mission offering will be divided between UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and SSP (Sierra Service Project). To give to that offering use the envelope you received in the mail or that can be found in the Sanctuary, or online at www.umcstmarks.org.

I'm overflowing with gratitude for those who have brought all their talents to worship, classes and programs this Lent and Holy Week in order to help all of us fully experience God's love.

Art and I wish you all the joy of new life at Easter.

Blessings, Sharon