

# Messenger

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

St. Mark's  
United Methodist

## VBS 2019!

You are invited to Vacation Bible School, June 3-7! This year we are learning to love like Jesus with the theme, **Love Your Neighbor**.

Preschool children will have their own activities, including crafts, games, science, story time, bubble prayers and more! The elementary children will learn how we help our neighbors and participate in hands-on mission projects by making UMCOR hygiene kits, filling travel bags for the INN, and doing prayer ties for Ties that Bind quilts. Children will practice peaceful martial arts and discuss how to be better neighbors. There will be music, story time, and crafts as well as other activities.



Vacation Bible School for me has always been such a holy moment in the life of the church. Each day the children come in, and they are so happy to be there because they experience total love and acceptance. It is one of the most profound ways we teach them how much God loves them, and how they can love others. Please bring your children, your grandchildren, your neighbor's children, or any children you know. We want them all to be a part of this special week.

Margaret Synhorst

## Calling All Grads!

If you or someone you love, are graduating, or have graduated from high school or college this year, we want to celebrate that accomplishment! (That includes anyone who has graduated since last May.) There will be a video in each of the services on May 19. The video will include pictures of each individual grad, along with pertinent information.



For high school graduates, the information should include first and last name and the school from which you are graduating. College graduates, please include first and last

## Membership 101 Class

If you've been considering membership at St. Mark's or would simply like to know more about this terrific church, **Membership 101** is an opportunity you won't want to miss. We'll meet on Sunday, May 5, in the church Library from 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Pastor Sharon provides information about UMC history and our place in the world today. You will also have the chance to get to know more about THIS church including fun facts about our beginning and a quick look back through the decades at St. Mark's. There will be time spent with some of St. Mark's staff and time to begin to know the others in the class. Childcare will be available if requested.



At the conclusion of this session, those interested in joining St. Mark's will be taken into membership on Sunday, May 19. Also, a short-term class, **Exploring What We Believe** is available in June and a great follow-up for those who'd like to learn even more (see page two of this newsletter).

Please register for class online [www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org) (Classes/Membership 101). You may also register in the courtyard on Sunday morning by using the sign-up sheet on the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board; or call Janie at the church office (297-2062). Please note: checking *wish to join* on the pew pad slips is not the same as actually registering for the class. We hope you can join us!

name, school, major and degree received. Please send photos and information to Kim Ogle ([kim@umcstmarks.org](mailto:kim@umcstmarks.org)) by May 15, and we'll make sure it is included in the video.

Also, on Sunday, May 19, there will be a **Blessing of the 2019 High School Grads** in the church Library at 9:15 a.m. Families are invited and encouraged to attend this brief affair, to recognize and pray for our young people, as they prepare for new adventures.

# 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

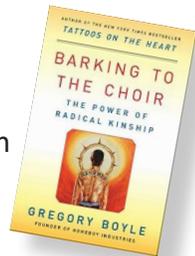
We will gather on Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the church Library. One book has been selected each month for your summer reading enjoyment. Read the book and join the discussions. It's a great way to meet more people from our St. Mark's family.

**June 24**

***Barking to the Choir:***

***The Power of Radical Kinship***

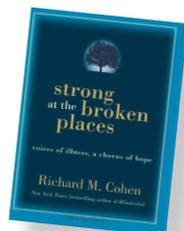
by Gregory Boyle. Led by Sandi Heilman



**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

## Exploring What We Believe

**Sundays, June 2 and June 9**

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."

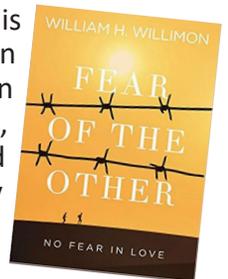
A sign-up sheet is available on the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board, or you may register online [www.umstmarks.org](http://www.umstmarks.org). The sessions will be at 11:00 a.m., Sundays, June 2 and June 9.

## Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love

**Tuesdays, July 9–Aug. 6**

**1:30-3:00 p.m., Library; 5 sessions**

Linda Walker will lead a discussion of this most timely book by William H. Willimon which deals with the divisiveness in our culture. How many of us have said, "I wish there was something I could do about this atmosphere of hostility where everyone feels compelled to take sides and demonize the others?" It has seemed hopeless, hasn't it?



Now there is a chance for us as followers of Christ to learn to lead the way and show that whether or not we agree, we can listen and work together in love. Please join us.

A sign-up sheet will be available on the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board, or you may register online [www.umstmarks.org](http://www.umstmarks.org).

# 2019 Lenten Studies— And Beyond

There was a rich offering of study opportunities this past Lenten season: nine groups on different days, at different times, in different places (three off-campus), using seven different studies. They all met to reach more deeply into themselves in order to deepen their relationships with God and Christ.

Here are some testimonials from one of the groups:

♥ I enjoyed the Philippians study. Paul has lots of information and guidelines for each of us to hear and practice. I want to practice more “Rejoicing” in all circumstances.

♥ Enjoyed learning and taking a closer look at Paul and his life and delving into what he was teaching us. Always enjoy comments from other class members. The book really helped.

♥ Enjoyed reading all of Philippians along with study guide. Especially chapter on joyful giving. “Because of this I rejoice” – Good variety of subject matter. In-depth look at each topic for good group participation. I would recommend.

The Adult Spiritual Growth Committee wants to do all we can to assist you with your spiritual journey. We are now making plans for the fall offerings. What is the next step for you in your spiritual growth? Is there a topic or book that interests you, challenges you, or worries you?

Please contact Margaret Synhorst ([margaret@umcstmarks.org](mailto:margaret@umcstmarks.org)) or visit with her in the courtyard about your ideas and suggestions. You'll find her at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board.

## Open Minds Book Discussion

The Open Minds Book Discussion group will meet on Friday, May 24, in the church Library at 9:30 a.m.

We are concentrating our reading on books about the earth, climate change, or extinctions for our May meeting. The books suggested for reading are:

***The Sixth Extinction***

***Hospitable Planet***

***The Uninhabitable Earth*** (hot off the press).

Choose one of those, or a current book not on the list, and join us for our final meeting of the year.



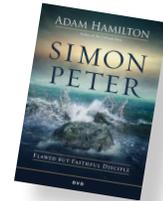
# Sunday Adult Studies

**Sharing/Family Life Group**

**9:45 a.m., Sundays, Rm 17/18**

Join the Sharing/Family Life adult Sunday School class for the next book/DVD study beginning May 5 for six weeks (5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9): ***Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple***, by Adam Hamilton.

The class is led by Terry Majewski and Rick Farnsworth.



**Seekers Group**

**11:15 a.m., Sundays, Rm 17/18**

This adult Sunday School Class just started the study of ***Paul's Letter to the Romans***. Each week they read sections of the biblical text to discuss what it might have meant then, and what it means for us today. Various translations of Bible text are utilized. Everyone is welcome to join at any time. The class is led by Brenda Hunter and Kelly Deyoe.

## Weekday Adult Studies

**Wednesday Morning Study Group**

**10:00 - 11:30 a.m., Rm 17/18**

A new five-week study begins April 24! ***When Did God Become a Christian?*** by David Kalas. This study is open to anyone interested in attending and is the last study for the Wednesday Group until class resumes in the fall. The class is led by Marcia Rostad.

The God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament are the same God, right? Then, why does God seem so different depending upon which part of the Bible you read?

Christians have struggled with this question throughout history. This study helps you explore the unity of the Scripture, biblical history and the two primary attributes of God: love and holiness. The study will help you come away with a better understanding of the nature and integrity of God.

Study books are available electronically or in paperback through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com). The paperback version is available only through [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com). Please obtain your own book.

**Monday Morning Study Group**

**10:30 a.m., Mt. View Retirement Center**

April 29—May 20 A study of ***Romans***

June 3: A study of ***Paul's Letters to Timothy*** begins.

These studies are off-campus across the street from St. Mark's church, but are open to anyone interested in attending the study at any time.

The study is led by Marge Sogn.

## DAYBREAK

*In Concert—Sunday, May 5 at 3:00 p.m.  
St. Mark's Sanctuary*

Daybreak is an accomplished, four part a cappella quartet that sings in the barbershop-style. The group is composed of Steve Chrisman (Bass), Lucas Snyder (Baritone), Michael Vo (Lead) and Wes Krause (Tenor). They are a mainline quartet for the Tucson Sunshine Chapter of BHS here in Tucson and have been singing for about a year. For their short-time ringing chords they have established a clean, crisp sound that rivals many other established quartets. The quartet has worked hard on their repertoire and have many up-beat tunes and ballads that are timeless treasures. You may recognize one of the members of the quartet (Steve Chrisman) who sings in St. Mark's Chancel Choir. Come hear a wonderful collection of music sung in this unique style. Bring neighbors, friends and family. As usual, this event is free and open to the entire community.



## 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 (907-4718) or Lenna Burnham (305-923-5362).

## SOUL STATION

### *Super Summer Spectacular!*

Looking for something a little different to do this summer? How about sharing an interest or 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 a class. There will still be a program for the children.

The 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](mailto:kim@umcstmarks.org)), Pastor Stuart ([stuart@umcstmarks.org](mailto:stuart@umcstmarks.org)) or Pastor Evy ([Evy@umcstmarks.org](mailto:Evy@umcstmarks.org)) or call the office (297-2062) and leave your name and number and we'll return your call.

## Volunteer Summer Choir



Throughout the summer our Chancel Choir and Celebration Singers take a well-deserved vacation. During this time, we have a volunteer Summer Choir that rehearses on Sundays at 7:45 a.m. then sings for the two traditional services at 8:15 and 9:45 a.m. The Summer Choir will sing on six Sundays: June 2, 16, and 30, July 14 and 28, and August 11. You do not need to commit to singing all of the Sundays. All are invited to join in this volunteer group led by Sondra Franks. If you have any questions, please contact Sondra Franks ([sondralf@msn.com](mailto:sondralf@msn.com)) or Susan Putt ([susan@umcstmarks.org](mailto:susan@umcstmarks.org)).



# Multi-site Memorandum

## St. Mark's: One Church, Two Locations

Over the last year you have heard us talk in earnest about starting a second site for St. Mark's, located in the area near Tangerine Road between Thornydale and Dove Mountain Roads. A lot of building and growth is taking place in that area with a new K-8 school being built which will open in fall, 2019. Our team has done many things to plan and prepare for this possible new site including examining the demographics for the area, being trained in starting a new site, discussing leadership options and models, participating in a national program for learning and mentoring about new sites, developing a timeline, working together as a team, holding a showcase in January, 2019, and keeping the congregation informed about what we're exploring. We have surrounded all of this in prayer, with a weekly prayer focus for us and others who have expressed interest in praying for the new site.

For the last several months. we have been working diligently to find a location for the new site. We do not plan to buy land and build a building but would like to rent some space for a couple of years. This would be a space where we can start holding worship services, classes, small groups and prayer groups and have some office space. This would anchor us in the community and help people begin to know who and where we are. It's been very difficult for us to find space to rent. Several times we had leads on space but nothing has worked out. We've been working with a commercial realtor and have explored spaces in shopping areas and along Tangerine, with no success yet. We welcome your prayers in this.

The whole purpose of the new site is to reach new people with the good news of God's love in Jesus, bringing the life and ministries of St. Mark's—a healthy and strong church—to a new location. Over the last couple of months the team has wrestled with whether to continue the work, given the uncertainty in the United Methodist Church. But we have continued to feel that God is leading into that new area and that we have good news to offer. Please pray for this possible second site, especially for a location out of which to offer our ministry.

The Multi-site Team has worked closely together to get us this far. I have been an integral part of this team but do not expect to be the pastor at the new site—I'm going to stay at our current site and encourage and support leadership at the new site. We're not positive yet who will provide that leadership but we are working on it. Would you like to be part of what we're exploring? Contact Brenda Hunter (our chairperson) at [bhunter@email.arizona.edu](mailto:bhunter@email.arizona.edu) or me at [sharon@umcstmarks.org](mailto:sharon@umcstmarks.org).

On behalf of the Multi-site Team,  
Sharon Ragland

## Calling all Middle Schoolers!



This summer's Middle School Mission is the place to be! You are invited to join with other sixth, seventh and eighth graders from the South District for mission, worship and of course, FUN right here at St. Mark's on May28-31.

Each year, St. Mark's hosts this awesome Mission Trip for students who have completed grades 6-8. It's a great chance to meet new friends, connect with old friends and serve together.

Register today at [www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org) (calendar). Or, for more information, please contact Rachel or Kim at the church office (297-2062).

## Sunday Greeter Update

The Worship Committee has a new scheduling procedure for people who volunteer to greet at the 8:15 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Sunday services. Starting immediately, all current Greeters and any new Greeters must sign themselves up using the **Volunteer Opportunities Board** located on the back wall of the narthex.



The Volunteer Opportunities Board includes sign-up cards for Greeters; Altar Flowers; Primavera Meals. The Greeter cards (located on the right side of the board) cover one month of Sundays for each service (8:15 and 9:45).

When you are at church, please stop by the Volunteer Opportunities Board and sign up to greet. 2019 Greeter Handbooks are available in the credenza rack near the board for anyone who would like information about greeting responsibilities.

**Note to choir members:** Greeting during the summer while your choir is on break would be greatly appreciated and lots of fun. Please sign up in the narthex.

Thank you everyone for your time and volunteer spirit!

Worship Committee

# WASS UP?

May 1, 2019

Volume 20, Issue 8



## UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

**May 5, 2019—**

4:00 to 6:00

Mission Project & Silly Videos

**May 12, 2019—**

**Confirmation Sunday**

Mother's Day

No Youth Group

*Mom*

**May 19, 2019—**

Movie Night

Time and feature TBA



### YOUTH & PRETEENS

You need this info, so that you can invite friends to the cool summer field trips!

Greetings PreTeen's,  
May is here! Yay. That means it's closer to summer. We have lots of great things planned for the rest of the school year. You don't want to miss any of them.

Remember, friends are always welcome.

Blessings,  
Julie

**May 5th-**

Sounds like a good day for chips and salsa !!!!



**May 12—**

Mother's Day

No PreTeens

### How do I download a permission slip?

- Step 1: Go to [umcstmarks.org](http://umcstmarks.org)
- Step 2: Find "Resources" in the upper right corner, & click.
- Step 3: Go to "Forms" and look for Youth Ministries Forms
- Step 4: Click & Print
- Step 5: Share with a friend!

Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf

a note from the

# YOUTH DIRECTOR

It's been a couple of weeks since Easter, but I'm still thinking about that morning. I want to thank all of you who participated in the service and helped with the pancake breakfast. That includes all of you who helped usher, greet, bring in the light, serve communion, and serve pancakes.

Those who took on extra responsibilities included **DANIEL TITZEL** (Head Usher), **ADDISON DADEPPO** (Welcome and Announcements), **ELI MOSER** (Prayers), **ZOE NEWELL** (Responsive Prayer), **FREDER MORRISON** (Scripture), and **MACKENZIE KESTER**, who delivered a very powerful message. Our music was beautiful that morning, thanks to **CATHY HARRIS HERCHENROEDER**, **DAVID RAGLAND**, **HANNAH EBLEN**, and **ANDREW EBLEN**.

You may not have realized it, but **JENASYS TURNER** took the responsibility of coordinating the pancake breakfast all morning. Our extraordinary pancake chefs were **DEAN ELLEDGE** and **NAT NORFLEET**, and their families.

We are Easter people! The excitement and mystery of the Resurrection stays with us always. That's one of the reasons that the Middle School and High School students had prayer walks the Sunday after Easter (one at the Stations of the Cross on campus and one at the Lambert walking trail).

Blessings, *Kim*

## Middle School Moments

Last week at Youth Group, the Middle School Group walked around the Way of the Cross and had a short discussion at each of the stations along the way. It was a great afternoon and we really got to know each other, and the Bible a little better.

We are so lucky to have this special area on our campus. It provides a beautiful backdrop for our Sunrise Service, and its there anytime you want to take a stroll, and meditate! It's very relaxing. You and your family are welcome to walk through it any time.

See you Sunday!  
Rachel



## Birthdays This Month

*05-03 Kiera Ritchey*

*05-20 Don Booth (Sunday School teacher)*

### ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Please get a photo and the name of your school to Kim by May 12, so you can be included in the video that will be shown in worship on the 19th.



## ▣ *Nash News!* ▣



On March 9, Nash Elementary School competed against over 80 other elementary schools at the Southern Arizona Research Science and Engineering Foundation Fair. Nash had outstanding success and was recognized as the **2019 Top Elementary School at the fair.**

Nash has received 30 different awards for outstanding science and engineering class projects over the past three years. Nash is now an officially SARSEF Endorsed school. We are so proud off the positive efforts of all Nash staff, students and their families.

*Bob Hehli, principal—Nash Elementary*

## PRAYER CORNER

We are a praying community at St. Mark's. Besides Sunday worship, you may submit prayer requests by email to [prayerchain@umcstmarks.org](mailto:prayerchain@umcstmarks.org). 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  
Lindsay Williams

## CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy and prayers go out to **Delores Cole** and family on the passing of John "Jack" Cole whose memorial service was held at St. Mark's last Friday, April 26, 2019.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to **Sherry and Gilbert Walker** along with mother, Judy Walker, on the passing of Gilbert's father, Randell Walker, on April 19, 2019. No services are scheduled.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to **Susan and Harold Putt** and family on the passing of Susan's mother, Phyllis Shorts, on April 6, 2019. A memorial service was held in FL.

## LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

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

**Hank Bautzmann**, son of Nancy Bautzmann  
**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



# Calendar Notes

## Sat., May 4

8:00 a.m. Market On The Move, Parking Lot

## Sun., May 5

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
\*9:45 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
11:15 a.m. The Gathering, Sanctuary  
3:00 p.m. DAYBREAK concert, Sanctuary  
4:00 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall  
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Wesley House  
4:00 p.m. PreTeens, Rm 8/9

## Mon., May 6

9:15 a.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall

## Wed., May 8

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

## Wed., May 8 continued

4:00 p.m. Multi-site meeting, Conf Rm  
5:45 p.m. Soul Station Dinner, Fellowship Hall  
6:15 p.m. Common Grounds, Library  
6:20 p.m. Soul Station Worship, Fellowship Hall  
6:30 p.m. Finance meeting, Conf Rm

## Thurs., May 9

Noon MESSENGER DEADLINE  
6:00 p.m. Trustees meeting, Conf Rm

## Sun., May 12

### Confirmation Sunday

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
\*9:45 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
11:15 a.m. The Gathering, Sanctuary  
4:00 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall  
4:00 p.m. No Youth Group or PreTeens

*\*This service is livestreamed.*



## St. Mark's Messenger

Published bi-weekly

St. Mark's UMC  
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(520) 297-2062

### Email:

[info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org)

### Website:

[www.umcstmarks.org](http://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.  
\*Livestreamed at

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

### Soul Station

Wednesday Night:  
Dinner - 5:45 p.m.  
Music/Programs  
6:15-7:15 p.m.

## Market on the Move!



On Saturday, May 4, here in the church parking lot from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. you can purchase 60 pounds of fresh produce for only \$10 to enjoy, freeze and share. If you know of someone in-need, please let us know. We have vouchers at the registration table. Damaged food for your compost, chickens or pigs will be available at 9:30 a.m.

If you would like to help, please come at 7:00 a.m. bring something to drink, wear close-toed shoes and don't forget your sun screen and hat. You may sign up at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board in the courtyard on Sunday, or call or text Lenna Burnham (305-923-5362). This program keeps food out of the landfill, please remember to share.

## United Methodist Women Meet



St. Mark's United Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday, May 14, at the church Library. Please join us for light refreshments and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. followed with the meeting and program at 10:00 a.m. Our guest speaker this month is Susan Friese. She will discuss the Casa Paloma Women's Hospitality Center and Residence and the services they provide to homeless women. All women are invited, you do not have to be a member of St. Mark's UMW or our church to attend. Childcare may be scheduled through the church office before Friday, May 10.

## Early Childhood Center Summer Camp



Summer is just around the corner and the Early Childhood Center is offering week-long, themed camps for children ages three (and potty trained) to eight years old. Camps run from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day. Themes include Desert Dwellers, Reading Adventure, My Amazing Body, Sculptures, Spanish, and Ready, Set, Get Wet to name a few! Stop by the ECC office or register online at [www.stmarksecc.com](http://www.stmarksecc.com).

Address Service Requested

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## Reflections

**“And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” — 1 Corinthians 13:13**

Sure, we know that the greatest of these three is love. I think, though, that faith is pretty important. For me, that’s because deep in the heart of faith in God is trust that God is always working, bringing creation out of chaos, light through the darkest cracks and hope that something good is coming. Trust in God allows me to cry out, “where are you, God?” when there is so much chaos and violence in the world and so much uncertainty and turmoil in the United Methodist Church.

Strangely, it is often in those moments of crying out that God pours out peace upon my heart and quite clearly says, “I am here. I am working. I will show you the way.” Sometimes God just comes, like a breath on my face and shoulder. Sometimes God comes in the words of a song, or the phone call of a friend, or the loving embrace of a child. God comes in countless ways and because of that, I trust in God.

Last Friday, the Judicial Council (the “supreme court” of the United Methodist Church) ruled parts of the Traditional Plan for the future of the church constitutional and parts unconstitutional (based on the UMC’s constitution). The Traditional Plan was passed by the Special General Conference of the UMC in late February and puts new and many restrictions on our ways of living and working with

LGBTQ+ people. The Judicial Council rulings continued much uncertainty in the UMC, so many people are wondering “what now?”

St. Mark’s is known for being a welcoming and inclusive place for all God’s people. We’re not perfect and make mistakes sometimes in how we talk and act. I expect we will continue to learn and grow as we seek to welcome and include. St. Mark’s leadership is committed to working against that which excludes and restricts people from participating in the life and ministry of the UMC.



We still wonder, “what now?” In many corners of the UMC, people are talking about this, wondering and planning for possibilities for the future. There may be a split in the UMC in the near future, but no one knows what that might look like or be. I have been invited to be a part of **UMC Next**, a gathering of 600 people at the UMC Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas on May 20-22, 2019. I am honored to be part of this gathering which will seek a way forward that includes and respects all people.

I trust that God is working among us. At St. Mark’s we will continue to do what we do, led by God. We will worship, learn, serve, baptize, confirm, talk together, and pray earnestly. We will do this together, trusting in God. I plan to be here, God willing, and hope you will be too.

*Blessings, Sharon*