

# Messenger

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

*St. Mark's*  
United Methodist

## Celebrate Sondra Franks!

On Sunday, June 23, 2019, we will recognize and celebrate the 20th anniversary of Sondra Franks' service to St. Mark's as organist, pianist and choral conductor.



On June 20, 1999 she began her career at St. Mark's after serving Auburn, Indiana First United Methodist Church for 29 years as music director, organist and choral director. She has been involved in church music her entire life having sung her first solo at age four!

Sondra received her degree in piano performance from Indiana University.

Initially Sondra was hired at St. Mark's as organist, then in addition became accompanist to Chancel Choir in 2002, and director of the Folk Choir, renamed Celebration Singers, after the retirement of David Camp in 2013.

**Save The Date!** On October 20, 2019, Sondra will offer a concert, "The 2020" in celebration of her 20 years at St. Mark's. Details will follow at a later time. On that day we'll also honor Sondra with a reception and recognition.

We give thanks to God for Sondra and celebrate her service to St. Mark's!

*Staff Parish Relations Committee*

## Vacation Bible School—Huge Success!

Last week 115 children and 80 teen and adult volunteers had all kinds of fun and learning to be good neighbors!

The elementary school-age children visited six centers: Bible story, crafts, martial arts, Love in Action, music, and snacks. We watched Mr. Roger's Neighborhood video clips, read books, made heart string art and other crafts, learned martial arts, heard the Bible stories, sang many songs, and completed three different mission projects, and much, much more. The preschool children made many crafts, had different science projects including a solar oven, saw puppet shows, sang and danced, learned the Bible stories, and blew bubble prayers every day. What an amazing week!

Many, many thanks to the record number of volunteers (See list on page six.) who gave so much of themselves so

## June 30th—Fifth Sunday

Four times a year, we get a bonus Sunday. In other words, there are four months with five Sundays in them. At St. Mark's we take that opportunity to focus on having families and children in worship. We believe that including kids in corporate worship is very important. Of course, Christian education is valuable, but worship is a key part of our Christian journey.

To paraphrase Jonathan Aigner (blogger), we adults need to be there to help children in their growth. To teach them. To make room for them in the pews. To let them make noise with the pencils in the activity boxes. To be patient with them when they squirm and sigh. Above all, to show them, by example, the importance of being the church on Sunday so that we can be the church we need to be every other day.

**Family 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

For several years, all morning children and youth Sunday School and Confirmation classes, and most adult classes have been canceled on the 5th Sundays in order to encourage you to worship as a church family on those Sundays. It has been wonderful to have more children in worship on those days.

There will be a great activity book, and, of course, an amazing "Time for all God's Children" moment for the kids on June 30. See you in the Sanctuary on Sunday and don't forget to say, "Hello, it's good to see you in church" to the children!

Christian Formation Team  
*Kim, Rachel and Margaret*

that the children would have a beautiful experience. I have said many times that VBS is very special because we come to love each other. It is truly love in action.





## UMC NEXT

### Who

▶ More than 600 United Methodist clergy and laity, bishops, and general secretaries drawn from across the U.S.

▶ Moderates, centrists, and progressives who are in agreement about opposing 2019 General Conference adoption of parts of the Traditionalist Plan.

▶ People committed to seeing a faithful expression of Methodism that honors and blesses the dignity and equality of all people, and particularly opposes the exclusion of LGBTQ siblings from the full rites and practices of ministry in the UMC.

### Where and What

▶ Leawood Kansas, hosted by the Church Of The Resurrection.

▶ Participants engaged in conversation and prayerful wrestling about what is next for the United Methodist Church.

- ▶ Several pathways forward were considered:
- 1) Stay, Resist, Renew, Rebuild – from within the current denomination,
  - 2) Disaffiliate from the UMC and affiliate between similar practicing churches,
  - 3) dissolve the United Methodist Church and exist as something totally new.

▶ There was no agreement about what the Next Steps should be, but there was complete agreement around commitment to a vision for emerging Methodism.

### Commitments

▶ We long to be passionate followers of Jesus Christ, committed to a Wesleyan vision of Christianity, anchored in scripture and informed by tradition, experience, and reason as we live a life of personal piety and social holiness.

▶ We commit to resist evil, injustice and oppression in all forms and toward all people and build a church which affirms the full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities.

▶ We reject the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and will resist its implementation.

▶ We will work to eliminate discriminatory language and the restrictions and penalties in the Discipline regarding LGBTQ persons. We affirm the sacred worth of LGBTQ persons, celebrate their gifts, and commit to being in ministry together.

## Quilts Make You Feel Surrounded With Love

Approximately one year ago we launched our prayer quilt ministry, Ties That Bind. Quilt recipients have been members of our church or connected to a church member



in some way. Each has felt the need for the comfort of prayer that we, as a church family, have to offer as they deal with health challenges, cancer, surgeries, emotional crisis, and other life challenges. The comfort and healing come from the prayers that are tied into

the quilt; the lap-sized quilt itself is simply the vehicle that carries the prayer.

Any church member can request a quilt for a person they know who is in special need of prayer.

To request a Prayer Quilt:

- 1 Ask the quilt recipient if they will accept the gift of a prayer quilt.
- 2 Ask the recipient for their specific prayer request.
- 3 Contact Ann Dyer, Catheryn Simpson or Pastor Stuart.
- 4 Provide a photo of the recipient to display during the tying/prayer process—this helps others to focus on the recipient. It is also helpful if you can be with the quilt if there are questions.
- 5 Make arrangements for the quilt to be presented to the recipient.

We thank you for the support you have given us through prayer, expressions of appreciation, and donations of quilt tops, money and supplies. We invite you to join us the first Monday of each month from 9:00—11:30 a.m., in Rm 17.

As our ministry grows, so does the need for member support so that we maintain an inventory at all times. Support might include sewing at our meetings, making quilts at home, help the sewers by pressing blocks, layering quilts, or sewing on labels by hand. We have fabric you can use and our sewing time is a great source of fellowship!

*Ann Dyer  
Ties That Bind Ministry*

## Want to Know More About JOHN WESLEY?



John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was truly a Renaissance Man of his time. Soon after he began his outdoor preaching, which brought the Good News to those who were unlikely to attend the

Anglican Church, John wanted to be able to care for the physical needs as well as the spiritual needs of those who gathered to hear him preach. These were the marginalized of his day and had no access to medical care. So he wrote a book called the *Primitive Physick*. He made copies available to all his lay preachers to distribute free of charge. Besides containing the best advice for diet and exercise, he also prescribed medicinal plants which could be used with some success for a variety of ailments.

Rev. Sharon and Art Ragland and Mark and Marjie Hrabe are leading a trip to Great Britain from April 20-29, 2020. The focus will be on visiting sites important to the life and ministry of John Wesley. At the home where he lived as a child you will be able to meditate in a garden filled with many of the medicinal plants described in *Primitive Physick*. We'll also visit the English countryside and other historic places.

There are still some openings for this trip. We're excited about sharing this experience with members and friends of St. Mark's.

For more information contact:

Mark or Marjie Hrabe  
(see directory)

Rev. Sharon or Art Ragland  
[sharon@umcstmarks.org](mailto:sharon@umcstmarks.org)

### Download a Brochure:

You can access a trip brochure at <https://shared-assets.adobe.com/link/fb8c0bd1-444f-4b05-53e5-b8d7f7568a6f>

### Online Registration:

<https://www.forms.travelwithus.com/web/paxreg.nsf/registration?OpenForm&HE20+X+042020X+39642>

## St. Mark's Quilters

St. Mark's Quilters meet weekly to sew quilts for people throughout the Tucson area. Your donations of fabric, batting, and monetary gifts are greatly appreciated and help us to make so many. So far this year we have donated 221 quilts!



They are picked up by the Easter Seals Blake Foundation, who distribute them to ten dialysis centers throughout Tucson as well as the Child Protective Services who provide blankets to children they pick

up. Last week, we learned our quilts will also be taken to More Than A Bed, a Christian resource center for foster and adoptive families.

To help raise funds for needed batting we have a group of ladies who do hand quilting for a fee. We invite you to come by Thursdays between 9:00 and 11:30 a.m., Rm 17/18 to see what we're doing. For more information, contact Gail Blevins.



Our Soul Station Super Summer Spectacular runs through July 31, and each week offers a series of three different activities from which to choose. Here's what scheduled for the next few weeks:

### Wednesday, June 19

**Mark Hrabe:** Taking Better Cell Phone Pictures, Part 1  
**ASG:** *Distorted Images of God, Restoring Our Vision*  
**Pastors Sharon and Evy:** *Living A Resurrection Shaped Life*

### Wednesday, June 26

**Potluck Dinner, everyone brings a dish to share.**  
**Mark Hrabe:** Taking Better Cell Phone Pictures, Part 2  
**ASG:** *Distorted Images of God, Restoring Our Vision*  
**Pastors Sharon and Evy:** *Living A Resurrection Shaped Life*

## News from Grace Circle

St. Mark's Grace Circle will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18, in the church Library to plan programs and out-to-lunch activities for the coming year.



The group is particularly interested in new ideas for hands-on projects for the next year. Grace Circle meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month for prayer and community service projects.

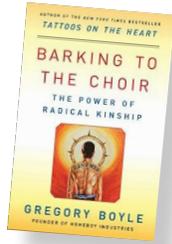
# Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

## Come Bark with Us!

**Monday, June 24, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Last summer, a group of St. Mark's individuals read and discussed Father Greg Boyle's book, *Tattoos on the Heart*. It told the story of Homeboy Industries, the largest and most successful gang-intervention program in Los Angeles and the world. The group enjoyed the book so much that they requested a future gathering for Boyle's follow-up book, and here it comes!

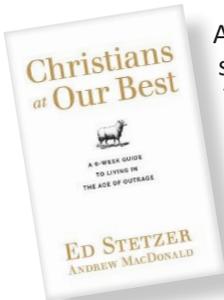


Join us on Monday evening, June 24, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the church Library to share thoughts and feelings regarding *Barking to the Choir*, also written by Gregory Boyle. You do NOT need to have read the previous book. You'll find this an easy read, full of real-life stories that will touch your heart—sometimes with laughter, and other times with tears. See the difference that faith in action and genuine compassion can make in a life (and in society overall). The book is available in paperback at bookstores and online, by digital download for e-readers, and as an audio book. Contact Sandi Heilman (see directory) if you have any questions prior to the class.

## The Sharing/Family Life

**Sunday June 16 - July 28, 9:45 a.m. Rm 17**

*Christians at Our Best: A 6 Week Guide to Living in the Age of Outrage*, by Ed Stetzer with Andrew MacDonald. Books are available for purchase in class now. An e-book version is NOT available. The book can also be ordered through Amazon, Cokesbury, or the author's website (<https://edstetzer.com/Christians-at-our-best>).



Are you tired of reading yet another news story about Christians acting their worst? Today there are too many examples of those who claim to follow Christ being caustic, divisive, and irrational, and contribute to these actions of the Christian faith as hypocritical, self-interested, and politically co-opted. It seems one short outrageous video or post can trigger an avalanche of comments on social media. In this study, Ed Stetzer, a respected columnist and respected Bible teacher, explores what it would look like if Christians were at their best. How might our world and our communities be different? If you have questions about the study, please contact class co-leaders Terry Majewski or Rick Farnsworth (see directory).

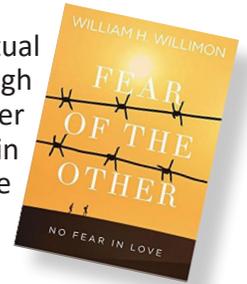
## The Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love

**Tuesdays, July 9-August 6**

**1:30-3:00 p.m. Library**

Linda Walker and Pastor Stuart will lead a discussion of this most timely book 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.

Books will be available from Adult Spiritual Growth for \$10 or ordered through Amazon as print or e-book. Register at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board, or you may register online [www.umstmarks.org](http://www.umstmarks.org).



## Mary Poppins—Movie

**Monday, July 15, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

The original film starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke is the July offering for our SUMMER MOVIE SERIES. The film, which combines live-action and animation tells of Mary Poppins, who visits a dysfunctional family in London and employs her unique brand of lifestyle to improve the family's dynamic.



Mr. Banks, at the beginning of the film, is constantly shoving his children aside in favor of longer work hours and the possibility of bigger promotions. At Mary Poppin's example, Mr. Banks begins to understand the value of spending quality time with his children, and by the time Mary Poppins takes her memorable, magical trip into the sky, the Banks family is happy and content – though sad to see their beloved nanny move on.

This is one of Disney films most popular movies with many memorable songs. Marlyce Wright is host for this film. Popcorn will be available—just bring our own beverage and join us for some family summer fun.

## A Note of Thanks!

On May 17, we delivered 181 bags to Nash Elementary school. This is the last year we will coordinate this project.

We wish to thank everyone who helped over the years and we appreciate your generous contributions.

Gail Blevins, Grace Circle

## Upcoming Changes: Nash Elementary Snack Pack Program

Thank you to all of our Snack Pack team leaders, teams and individual volunteers for another great school year of getting Snack Packs to kids at Nash Elementary School. Each of you play an important role in helping to ensure that students in need receive supplemental food each week. We appreciate each of you!

We have some exciting changes ahead for fall, 2019 for food distribution at Nash which will allow the Community Food Bank to provide more food to children and their families in the Nash community. They are phasing out their weekly Snack Pack Program and are moving to a monthly Mobile School Pantry Model for food delivery to Nash and other area schools. Arizona ranks as the fifth worst state for childhood hunger and one in four children are at risk of hunger in our state. With the Mobile School Pantry, a family visiting the pantry can receive from 15 to 25 pounds of food compared to a Snack Pack that contains about 3 pounds of food. This change will help to better address childhood hunger and food instability in our community.

We are hopeful that our current teams/volunteers



from St. Mark's will continue to participate in this important outreach. The change to the Mobile School Pantry will mean that volunteers will go to the school on the second Tuesday of each month in the afternoon (probably about a three hour commitment) and work helping with food set-up, client check-in, helping clients, clean-up, etc. We will have more information for our team leads and volunteers about the Pantry in the next few months.

As we have also been announcing in the Bulletin, we need to train our current teams/volunteers about food safety and the new program. If you are still in town, please plan to attend the Community Food Bank's Food Safety and Mobile Food Pantry Training on Friday, June 14, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the church Library.

If you can attend, please email Nancy Jackson (see directory). If you want to get involved in the Mobile School Pantry at Nash, we'd love to have you join us, too! We will also have additional training opportunities later in the summer/early fall.

*Nash Neighbors Committee*

## Nash School Supplies Needed

The Nash Elementary School year begins in August and **St. Mark's Nash Neighbors** will collect and donate school supplies to be used by the students.

We invite the congregation to donate any of the following classroom supplies. Look for a blue bin in the courtyard each Sunday in July to deposit your donations.

- **Hand Sanitizer (unscented, large pump bottles)**
- **Glue Sticks**
- **Black Dry Erase Markers**
- **Pink Pearl Erasers**
- **Boxes of Tissues**
- **Clorox Wipes**
- **Paper Towels**



Thank you for supporting the cl

## Praying Together For Peace

In support of St. Mark's mission *changing the world through Christ, by caring for all people* the Church and Society Committee invites everyone to gather to pray for peace in our broken and hurting world.



**Wednesday, June 19, 6:30 p.m.**

Most Holy Trinity Parish, 1300 N Greasewood Rd

**Wednesday, July 17, 6:30 p.m.**

Johrei Community of Tucson, 3919 E River Rd

**Wednesday, August 21, 6:30 p.m.**

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

**Note:** This service will be the program for Soul Station. Dinner will be served at 5:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed with children's time, prayers and Holy Communion. Then, We'll move to the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. to pray for peace.

## ***St. Mark's New Member Class of May, 2019***



### ***Meet Eric Berkhimer***

Eric works as a branch manager dealing in mining equipment. Originally from Blue Knob, PA, Eric is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. He and his family are interested in genealogy and he counts it as a main interest of his along with college football and wrestling. Eric has four children. He participates in the Seekers class, and attends the 9:45 a.m. service. His sponsor is Mark Hrabe.



### ***Meet (Joyce) Connie Haines***

Connie claims Alexandria, LA as her home town. Her husband, Byron, is a retired Methodist pastor and they have served many churches over decades of ministry. Connie is retired from a career of counseling and teaching at the junior high level. They have six children, eight grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. At their kid's insistence, Connie is writing a book for the family with the memories of all the places they've lived and the family fun they've enjoyed. Connie attends the 9:45 a.m. service and her sponsor is Judy Boroto.



### ***Meet Pam Harlow***

Pam retired from thirty-six years with American Airlines and now travels for fun. It's hard to catch up with her! She now is a part-time concierge at two hotels. Formerly, she sang in a Sweet Adeline group. Pam supports many service clubs and organizations: PACE, the Food Bank, Fox Theatre, and Airport Ambassadors. Here, she works with the Nash weekend backpack project, sings with the Celebration Singers, and participates in Bible studies. Her sponsor is David Camp.



### ***Meet Harold Hval***

Harold is now retired from a career as a tech writer followed by years working in real estate. Originally from Connecticut, Harold and wife, Kay, were married for seventy-four years. They had three sons and now, son Robert (Bob) is Harold's chauffeur and support team, as Kay passed away very recently. Over the years, Harold has been very involved with the Lions Club, and Lions International. He attends the 9:45 a.m. service and his sponsors are Dick and Judy Poffenberger.



### ***Jack Martin and Colleen Paulson***

Jack worked in Sterling CO as a consultant for the beef feedlot industry. Now, he and life partner, Colleen, work in real estate. Jack has three sons. He and Colleen have four little Shih Tzu dogs that they love to walk and care for. Also, he likes working in the garden and reading. Professional service organizations he's been involved with are NAR, AAR, and TAR. Colleen claims Hillsboro, OR as her hometown. She and Jack work actively in real estate—often seven days a week. In addition to that, Colleen is devoted to her family, Jack, Georgia Unger, her mother, and Georgia's life companion, Eric Ward. Colleen also has stepchildren and grandchildren she adores. She shares the same professional organization affiliations with Jack—National, Arizona, and Tucson Associations of Realtors. Both Colleen and Jack are excited about joining St. Mark's and hope to be of service to others. They attend the 9:45 a.m. service and their sponsors are Tom and Liz Ellis.





**Meet Erik B. von Nieda**

Erik comes to us from Nashville TN with a career as a retail sales manager. Erik and his wife, Kathy, have adult children. Also, Erik and Kathy each have four siblings and care for Kathy's mom. Erik was part of the National Association of Church Business Administrators. He enjoys outdoor activities and has been part of canoe, hiking, and flower clubs. His interests include boating, cross cultural communications/missions, and immigrant rights. Erik usually attends the 9:45 a.m. service and is involved with our Agua Prieta missions. His sponsors are Pat and Robert Kittrell.



**Meet Kit Parcell**

Kit is a retired Spanish teacher and school librarian who has taught in both Indiana and Arizona. Kit is still extremely involved, giving time to Literacy Connects, Make Way for Books, and the Starfish Project ministry. Originally from Indiana, Kit has been in the Phoenix and Tucson area for some time to be near children and grandchildren. Kit gives time here to Celebration Singers, Wednesday morning Bible study, VBS, and Nash Snack Packs project. Her sponsors are Al and Greta Roberts.



**Meet Kay Scarber**

Kay is a retired teacher, originally from West Virginia. Now that she and her husband, Don, are both retired they have time to enjoy family and friends and their dog, Boomerang, the boss of the family. Kay likes traveling, swimming, crafting, playing golf, and following politics. She is anxious to be involved in a variety of service opportunities here. Kay usually attends the 9:45 a.m. service. Her sponsors are Deb and Don Brown.



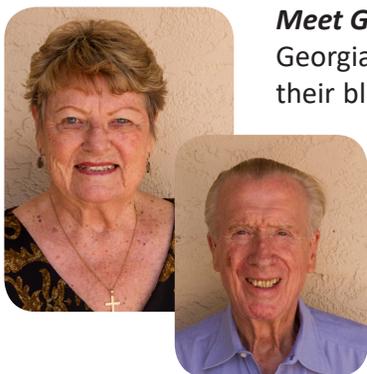
**Meet Linda Stockbauer**

Linda is a busy lady! Now retired from being a Title 1 Reading Teacher, grades 1-3, Linda and her husband John (also a retired teacher) are the parents of four children and eleven (about to be twelve...) grandchildren. Linda sings with our Praise Team at *The Gathering*. She does cross stitch, makes things for the grandchildren, and works out at the Y. She is interested in working with our Market on the Move team. Her sponsor is Donna Reed.



**Meet Tom Strong**

Tom is from Emporia, KS but is a longtime Tucson resident (and UA alumni) now retired from his career as a Wildlife Biologist. Tom has joined his wife, member Blythe Strong, in Disciple Bible Study classes here and on the last church trip to the Holy Land. Tom enjoys travel around the U.S. and the world. He also spends time camping, hiking, birdwatching and he is an avid photographer. Tom usually attends service according to the Chancel Choir schedule as Blythe sings in that choir. Blythe is Tom's sponsor.



**Meet Georgia Unger and Eric Ward**

Georgia and Eric are extremely active real estate professionals who now work together and enjoy their blended families of adult children and extended grandchildren and stepgrandchildren. They are active in organizations related to the real estate industry, NAR, Tucson MLS. In Eric's words, "I enjoy helping people buy or sell one of the largest purchases of their lives, a home." Georgia is Colleen's mother so it is especially nice to welcome them all to St. Mark's at once! They attend the 9:45 a.m. service and their sponsors are Tom and Liz Ellis.

# June is LGBTQ Pride Month!

Every year around the country and the world LGBTQ communities gather together to celebrate Pride Month with parades and festivals throughout June, a month chosen to commemorate the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots fifty years ago this year. You might encounter LGBTQ Pride events as you travel throughout the month (Tucson Pride is actually in September due to the heat), or notice an abundance of rainbow flags around town, on your friends' Facebook pages, on the logos of inclusive companies, and more!

When it comes to LGBTQ Pride, the word "pride" is used as an antonym for "shame." Pride Month is an opportunity for the LGBTQ community to stand up in the face of the shame that is directed their way and show that they have pride in who they are. Things have changed greatly in the last fifty years, but there are still many places around the world where it is illegal to openly be LGBTQ and people can be imprisoned or executed by their governments just for who they are or who they love. Even in the United States, where marriage equality

has existed nationwide for four years, LGBTQ people still face many legal and social challenges. For instance, in many states it is still legal to fire someone just for being LGBTQ, and people who want to serve in our country's military to defend all of our rights are newly prohibited if they are transgender. More personally, many LGBTQ people face rejection, persecution, and discrimination at home, from their families, their churches, their schools, and their communities, and may not feel safe to openly live their true lives.

Pride Month is an opportunity for the LGBTQ community and their allies to show that love, openness, honesty, and solidarity are the most powerful weapons we have against fear, hatred, and oppression. It's a chance for us all to listen to the stories, the hopes, the sorrows, and the joys of our LGBTQ family members, friends, and neighbors. Our Church and Society Committee and others at St. Mark's stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ siblings here at St. Mark's and in our greater community.

*In peace and love, Josh Smith  
St. Mark's Church and Society Committee*

## THANKS AGAIN-Vacation Bible School Volunteers

**Resource Person**—Sue Pierce  
**Skits**—Evy McDonald

### Elementary

#### **Crafts**

Jodi Lucio  
Kathryn Lucio  
Pam Settles  
Ardyth Arnston

#### **Handy Hands**

Dave Shelton  
John Shattuck  
David Farnsworth  
Jim Johnson

#### **Music**

Hannah Eblen  
Paul Simpson sound  
Kim Ogle sound

#### **Activity**

Father Allen  
Freder Morrison  
James Carsten

#### **Neighbor in Action/Missions**

Margaret Synhorst

#### **Missions**

Kathie Barrett—The Inn  
Pat Kittrell—UMCOR  
Ann Dyer—Ties that Bind

#### **Storytellers**

Pam Howard  
Kathy Hale

#### **Shepherds**

Molly Butler/ Caroline McComb  
Jerri Forinash/ Leeah Payne  
Pat Kittrell/ Brendan Ritchey  
Kit Parcell/Tyler Drescher  
Harold Putt/Daniel Titzel/Gio Sanchez  
Barb Sargent/Jordan Pierson/Avalonne Wilson  
Dawn Willman/Roman Olivas  
Marlyce Wright/Brenna Eblen

#### **Photographers**

Roger Pierce  
Sallyann Wassmuth  
Cathy Simpson

#### **Preschool**

Director—Nancy Yob  
Connor Watson

#### **Decorating**

Nancy Bautzmann

#### **Preschool Teachers**

Alberta Farnsworth/Eli Mosher/Connor Ogle  
Ardyce Johnson/Mackenzie Kester  
Cheri Whisler/Tatum Yob/Jonathan Petrikat  
Anita Winslow/Siena Viola and Ashlyn Holmes  
Lexie DeFrancesco/Ian Holehan

#### **Preschool Crafts**

Sydney Edwards  
Alexis Gomez  
Grace Carsten  
Madison Yob  
Tricia Chester—Holy Yoga  
Preschool Story  
Cindy Flannery

#### **Snacks**

Jill Pederson  
Gail Blevins  
Janice Shelton  
Benjamin Fish  
Sharon Bender

#### **Floaters/Registration/Setup**

Jean Liska & Courtney	John Synhorst
Elizabeth & John Vaughn	John Schladweiler
Maryann Nuckolls	Kathryn Barrero
Art Ragland	Bart Dale



## 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  
Deb Cushman  
Judy Drescher  
Keith and Mary Ann Glazier

Floretta Harrington  
Patricia Keele  
Marian Shultis  
Carol Underwood

Jackie Vickers  
Dave and Jan Webster  
Lindsay Williams

# WASS UP?

June 12, 2019

Volume 20, Issue 11



## UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

**June 16, 2019—  
FATHER'S DAY  
No Youth Group**



Spend Time With  
Dad DAY

**June 23, 2019—**



Hurricane Harbor in  
Phoenix

Meet at the  
Wesley House @ 12:30

**June 28-July 5, 2019 —  
SSP team serving in San Diego**

**June 30, 2019 —  
Meet at the movies  
Time and feature tbd**

PreTeen's,  
Congratulations! You all made it through another school year. Please join us this summer for Fun Filled Fellowship. There will be field trips, games and of course yummy snacks. Have a safe summer and be sure to join us on Sunday's when you can. FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!

Blessings,  
Julie

**June 16th -  
FATHER'S DAY  
No PreTeen**

**June 23rd -  
Board games & Popsicles**

**June 30th-  
Indoor Silly Games**



Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf

a note from the  
**YOUTH DIRECTOR**

Rachel and I had the joy of attending several graduations and promotions at the end of the school year. It's very exciting to share those moments with you.

We've watched you come into the youth group, participate in many types of service projects, Confirmation, and mission trips. Through it all, you've made good friends and grown, physically and spiritually.

For those of you who have just completed Middle School, I can't wait to see what High School brings.

To those of you who've just graduated, you can continue to participate in Youth Group, until August.

I know that God has a plan for all of you this summer and in the coming years.

Blessings,  
Kim

## Middle School Moments

Middle School Mission was the last week of May. We had such an amazing time! We had four teams of Middle School students stay here at St. Mark's, and participate in service projects, or missions, around Tucson. I made some new friends (including 600 chickens!) and learned a lot, too.

Mission is very important to our faith life. It's amazing to be God's hands and feet here on earth! Last week in Sunday School, we talked about spreading God's Word. Mission is such a great way to do this. Thanks to everyone who came to Middle School Mission, and everyone who helped out!

See you Sunday!  
Rachel

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- 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

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/17— Giovanni Sanchez

6/20 — Lake Laos



# Calendar Notes

**Sun., June 16**

**FATHER'S DAY!**

- 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, Wesley House
- 4:00 p.m. NO PreTeens, Rm 8/9

**Mon., June 17**

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

**Wed., June 19**

Noon BULLETIN DEADLINE

- 5:45 p.m. Soul Station Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- 6:20 p.m. Soul Station Worship - Super Summer Spectacular
  - Rm 20: Distorted Images of God, Restoring our Vision
  - Library: Living a Resurrection Shaped Life
  - Rm 17/18: Taking Better Cell Phone Pictures

**Thurs., June 20**

NOON - MESSENGER DEADLINE

**Sun., June 23**

- 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 PreTeens, Rm 8/9
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Group or PreTeens, Wesley House

*\*This service is live-streamed.*



**St. Mark's  
Messenger**

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**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.

\*Live-streamed 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.

It is with a grateful heart that I sincerely thank you for all the visits, prayers, cards, calls, Facebook messages, emails and good wishes that have been sent my way during my recent bout with pneumonia. I wish to offer a very special thanks to the ladies who made my prayer quilt and to all who knotted it with prayers for my health. I cherish it! I still have many weeks of lung cancer treatments to face, but I know that my beloved church family is behind me supporting my efforts and offering prayers to God for my health. *May God bless you all, Sandra Rush*

I have the most wonderful church! Ever since my accident and Mike's illness all the prayers, cards, phone calls and words of love and care were such a help to me, and after his death a blessing. I thank all the pastors for their visits to Mike at Desert Oasis, even if it was hard to find. All the prayers and cards after his death were so comforting to me. I love my church family.

Also, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me with Soul Station setting up tables, cooking for us or helping with cleanup. I am getting stronger and can do more things, but the help is wonderful. Thank you so much.  
*With love, Clara Campbell*

## **Reflections on UMC Next (continued from page 8)**

The convening team recommended that for now we work to resist and reform from within the UMC while working on a plan for something new.

Many people and groups have been working hard since UMC Next. In addition, a group called UMC Forward met May 15-17, and other groups are planning and dreaming too. Our Desert Southwest Annual Conference meets this week (June 12-16). Ten working groups are being formed to help look at various aspects of the future of the UMC and to begin to make plans for our Annual Conference. I will share more with you as this unfolds.

What does this mean for St. Mark's? We continue to do what we do in mission, worship, study and other ministry, in Jesus' name. At its meeting in May, I gave an update to our Covenant Council who will continue to pay attention to what is going on at the Annual Conference level and beyond. No decisions need to be made now—we continue to pray, work and serve.

You might have questions about what I've written or what you're reading about the UMC. When I'm back from Annual Conference I will share more with you. All is well. God is active and working and bringing hope, healing and new life, as God does.

*Blessings, Sharon*

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## Reflections

### **Reflections on UMC Next**

Inside this *Messenger* (page two) you will find a summary of UMC Next prepared by the Desert Southwest Conference office. I want to share with you some of my reflections, as well as some possible options for the future of the United Methodist Church.

UMC Next took place May 20-22, 2019, at the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS. It was organized by a team of pastors and lay people, led by Rev. Adam Hamilton, who wanted to discuss, dream and plan about a future for the UMC that would include all God's people. It was my privilege to be part of a team of ten from the Desert Southwest Conference. This was not a UMC sponsored event, so we were there because we care deeply about the UMC and where God is leading us. We were organized into table groups with people from around the country and engaged in deep conversations about the joys and challenges of ministry in our settings. I was struck by how different our experiences are—some people are in places where they are the only voice or the only church that talks about including everyone in the life and ministry of our church. While we have people with many different positions at St. Mark's, we are willing to listen to and learn from one another. That's not the case for people in some places.

Besides the four commitments that came out of UMC Next (on the enclosed summary), we talked about at least three possible directions for the UMC:

**Dissolution**—dismantle the UMC completely, divide up assets and let churches and annual conferences go their own way to start new denominations or ministries. This is like a divorce—those who support the traditionalist plan could move in one direction, while moderates, centrists and progressives could go another (or more than one) direction.

**Stay-resist-build-reform**—churches and annual conferences would stay in the United Methodist Church but continue to work to resist the implementation of the traditionalist plan and work to reform the church.

**Disaffiliation**—the UMC would remain but churches and/or annual conferences would remove themselves from the denomination. This is like exiting the denomination—an exit plan that was approved at the special general conference in February was upheld by the Judicial Council in late April. Churches would pay to leave the denomination; the amount is based on that church's apportionments and pension liabilities. Those churches that leave might band together to form a new denomination or join another denomination.

When a poll was taken at UMC Next the first two of the above options (Dissolution and Stay-Resist) received about an equal amount of support. Disaffiliation also received support, so there was no perfectly clear direction on the way forward.

*Continued on page 7...*