

# Messenger

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



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

To answer your question: "Yes, St. Mark's is moving ahead with plans for a second site for worship in the Dove Mountain-Tangerine Road area. Here is an update:

The current working name of the new site is **St. Mark's Dove Mountain UMC**. That could change as we go along!

We have a potential location for worship. Kim Ogle, Evy McDonald and I have met with Mrs. Divijak, the principal of Dove Mountain CSTEM K-8, the new school on Moore Road opening in August. She is excited about a partnership with St. Mark's, so encouraged us to complete the paperwork to rent the cafeteria/auditorium on Sunday mornings. We have submitted this paperwork and hope to get approval for five hours on Sunday mornings beginning in October, 2019.

We have leadership for the new site. Beginning July 15, 2019, Kim Ogle will be the part-time Second Site Director, 20 hours per week. Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald will be the part-time Second Site Associate Pastor, 10 hours per week. Kim and Evy will be working together with our current teams and developing new teams to carry out ministry and worship at the second site. Some of Kim's current youth ministry work will be assigned to Rachel Mosher, so Rachel will be working about 35 hours per week. Kim will be continuing the process to become a Licensed Local Pastor, which we hope will happen later in 2019. Evy will be increasing her current 15 hours per week to 20 hours, 10 at the new site and 10 at St. Mark's current site on Magee.

We have begun to hold events for the second site area. On July 4, we shared a booth with Sanctuary UMC at the Marana Star Spangled Spectacular, giving out water, glow sticks,

chapsticks, drink holders, candy, and information about our churches, including information about St. Mark's second site. We talked with lots of people about church, asking them, "**What's most important to you about church?**" This activity was organized by a second-site events team that was formed last spring to plan events introducing St. Mark's to our neighbors in the second-site area.

Our next events will be helping teachers unpack at the CSTEM School in late July, providing welcome bags to the teachers, and hosting a welcome breakfast on the first day of school for kindergarten parents.

We've received \$50,000 from the Desert Southwest Annual Conference for our second site. We'll be using this to pay for our leadership, rent, materials and supplies. This \$50,000 is the first installment from \$150,000 that the Conference has allocated for us for our new site. Evy, Kim, and the Second-Site Team continue to work on plans for worship and additional activities.

Some of you have already begun to help with the second site. Watch for more information about additional opportunities for you to help with events and worship at the new site. We plan to launch worship on October 13, 2019.

Thank you for your prayers and for your help as we work to reach new people with the good news of Jesus' love.

*Sharon Ragland, Lead Pastor*

## Children's Music Leader Needed!

St. Mark's is searching for someone who would like to lead our children in music time on Sunday mornings. The choir would include children from preschool through grade 6. The director would work with only a portion of them (PreK-K, Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, Grades 5-6) each week for approximately fifteen minutes during Sunday School.

If you would like more information or are interested in applying for the position, please contact Susan Putt, the Coordinator of Music Ministries ([susan@umcstmarks.org](mailto:susan@umcstmarks.org)).



## Roles of Our Pastors and Staffing Update

On Sunday, July 7, 2019, members of our Staff Parish Relations Committee made the formal announcement in worship that our three pastors have been appointed again to St. Mark's for July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020. While all three pastors provide care to and leadership of the congregation, each one has some specific responsibilities:

**Rev. Sharon Ragland** begins her tenth year as our full-time Lead Pastor. She provides vision, general oversight and leadership for St. Mark's. She is responsible for worship, supervises the staff, works with the Board of Trustees, Endowment Committee, and Staff Parish Relations Committee, leads our Second-Site Team and provides pastoral care and overall leadership. She is also part of Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and is on the "Dreaming a New Methodist Movement" team for the Desert Southwest Conference Way Forward.

**Pastor Stuart Salvatierra** begins his second year as our full-time Associate Pastor. Stuart is responsible for overseeing the congregational care for our church, provides leadership for Soul Station, works with our Technology Team and Finance Committee, serves on the Second-Site Team, and carries out other pastoral responsibilities. He is appointed as a licensed local pastor while he works toward being commissioned and then ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church. He is part of the "Disaffiliation" Team for the Desert Southwest Conference Way Forward.

**Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald** begins her second year as our part-time Associate Pastor, although she has been part of St. Mark's for seven years and has served in various ways. For this appointment year she will be devoting ten hours per week to the development of the second site for St. Mark's and ten hours at our main campus leading Faith on Stage, serving on the Second-Site and Soul Station Teams and as staff-liaison to Church and Society and the Safety Team, and carrying out other pastoral responsibilities.

### Other Staff Updates

Beginning July 15, 2019, Kim Ogle will be serving half time as our Second Site Director and half time as Youth Director (instead of full-time Youth Director). About half of Kim's youth ministry responsibilities will transfer to Rachel Mosher, who is our Youth Ministries Assistant. Rachel will be responsible for confirmation classes, youth Sunday School classes, many youth activities and will collaborate with Kim on youth group and youth special events.

If you have questions contact Pastor Sharon ([sharon@umcstmarks.org](mailto:sharon@umcstmarks.org)) or Ken Dunlap, SPRC chairperson, (see directory).

*Sharon Ragland and  
Staff Parish Relations Committee*

## Mystery Dinner Theater

Aug. 16, 17—Fellowship Hall

Join us for another mystery dinner theater hosted by Faith On Stage—**Dorothy Dinsmore, Gossip Columnist!**



Be prepared to laugh, fully enjoy yourself and have some delicious food at either performance. Friday, Aug. 16, at 6:30 p.m. (three-course dinner) and Saturday, Aug. 17, at 3:00 p.m. (full tea). Watch and learn about all the embarrassing information Dorothy Dinsmore has gathered on several Jet Setters; and how she bribes them to keep their secrets and dirty details out of the newspapers.

### Ticket sales start this Sunday!

Tickets will be on sale in the courtyard for two Sundays, July 14, and July 21. Ticket cost is \$15.00 each. Surely this will be another sellout performance so get your tickets soon. Cash, check, or credit cards will be accepted.

## Water Fun Night!

Friday, Aug. 9—West Patio  
6:00—8:00 p.m.

One thing you can say about Tucson in the summertime—it's HOT! Come and cool off with your church family on Friday, Aug. 9, at **Water Fun Night**.

Your Family Ministries Committee will provide some great water slides, including water toys for the littler friends. Plus, the main course for a POTLUCK. All you need to do is bring a side dish to share and come ready to get wet and have some fun! Water activities run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the west patio and we'll host the POTLUCK in Rm 17/18!



If you have questions please contact Rachel Mosher ([rachel@umcstmarks.org](mailto:rachel@umcstmarks.org) or 297-2062) in the office.

# Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

The next issue of the **MESSENGER** (July 24) will reveal a multitude of Adult Spiritual Growth offerings beginning this fall—there is something for everyone! However, to keep you occupied until then, here's some family-friendly summer activities to enjoy!

## Summer Movie Event

Monday, July 15, 6:00 p.m.

### **Mary Poppins**

Rated: G, (2 hr. 19 min.)

Hosted by Marlyce Wright

Come watch this original 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. Director: Robert Stevenson; Composers: Sherman Brothers; Stars: Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke, David Tomlinson, Glynis Johns; Writers: P.L. Travers (book), Bill Walsh and Don DaGradi (screenplay)



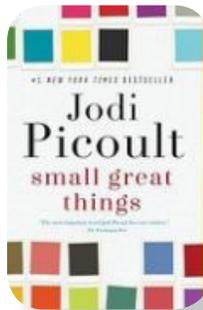
## July Book Discussion

Monday, July 29, 6:00 p.m., Library

### **Great Small Things**, by Jodi Picoult

Led by Margaret Synhorst

Picoult chose the title from the words of Martin Luther King, "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." The book deals with the issue of race in American and revolves around the protagonist, a delivery nurse named Ruth Jefferson.



## Coming Soon from ASG...

On behalf of the Adult Spiritual Growth team, here's a glimpse of a few exciting things happening (two courses and two retreats) at St. Mark's in the fall and winter. Winter sounds pretty good today... with 100+ degree temperatures in Tucson!

Things will kickoff in September. On Saturday, Sept. 21, we will meet at the Redemptorist Renewal Center, Picture Rocks, for a one-day Spiritual Retreat. Kim Pearce will lead the group, as she continues and expands on her special topic area: the spirituality of communication. Many of you participated in Kim's retreat earlier this year and you overwhelmingly requested that she return and continue the conversation... so, here it comes!

Then, on Monday, September 23, Art Ragland and I will team up in a multi-week, study/conversation called **Painting the Stars**, with emphases on the relationship of religion/faith and science. It will feature video segments of leading figures in both disciplines and plenty of discussion about the relationship of these two important segments of life.

Then, in January we will revisit Picture Rocks Retreat Center for another one-day spiritual encounter led by Dr. Gretchen Breyler Hegeman on the topic: **How to Build a Better Life Story**. Gretchen's training and experience is in counseling psychology and integrative healthcare. The date of this retreat is January 25, 2020. We encourage you to save both dates now, before your calendar is filled. Much more detail will be published as we get closer to the events.

Also, on a date yet to be determined, Art Ragland and I will team up again for a multi-week course: **ProFuture Faith: The Prodigal Species Comes Home** and it features TEDx speaker, Rev Michael Dowd, bestselling author and eco-theologian as he links together head, heart, science, and faith in the area of climate change and environment. This video-based series is eight sessions.

So, get ready! Registration will be required for these offerings. You can anticipate that each retreat will cost about \$35-\$40. There will be more publicity and registration will be open soon. Blessings to you all!

Roger Pierce

## Call for ARTISTS!

The recent art exhibit located in our Welcome Center was painted by one of our church members Jeanise Jalbert-Hagg. Thank you Jeanise for sharing your artful creations.

Now, it's time for a new exhibit of tapestry pieces from different artists. If you have a tapestry or wall hanging that you wish to display, bring the artwork to Shelley Gault, in the church office by July 19. Please include your name and a short narrative about the artwork and we'll be sure to include the information with your work on display until September 30. If you have questions, contact Shelley Gault (297-2062) in the church office.

## Live-Stream Improvements



St. Mark's Live Streaming Ministry has made tremendous strides over the past few months. As with many technology related projects you never quite know what issues you might have until you have them. This endeavor has been no different. Since just before Easter we have worked out the last of the equipment related issues that were presenting themselves on campus. We know with certainty that what we are sending out on our stream is leaving our campus and getting to our host without problem.

We know from your emails that most people are getting a wonderful, uninterrupted viewing, yet other people's viewing is interrupted when they watch the live worship. If you are one of those people who is having trouble viewing there are three likely places where the interruption could occur:

- ✓ the reliability and speed of your Internet service,
- ✓ the quality of your home Wi-Fi,
- ✓ or things pertaining to the device that you use (your browser being the most common).

We ask that you please continue to let us know of the quality of the experience you are having by emailing us ([info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org)). Our Technology Committee wants to help you have the best experience with the stream that you can have. If you are in the Tucson area, potentially we can come to you to help. If you are viewing from out of town, we can assist over the phone or over the Internet.

*St. Mark's Technology Committee*

## PRIDE... In Church

You are surely aware of the uproar throughout the United Methodist Church following the Special General Conference decision to continue to exclude the LGBTQ+ community from the full life of the church. The very foundation of the church is rattling and that has many on edge and anxious. But for those of us IN the LGBTQ+ community, the impact is farther reaching. To address the apparent lack of inclusion within the UMC, a faithful member of our fellowship—and that busy-body Holy Spirit!—reminded me that since I love St. Mark's I could play a role in making this community as I wish it could be.

In that vein, I will be exploring the idea of a "support group" for our St. Mark's family who identify as LGBTQ+. My idea is to meet once a month to hang out, share Christian fellowship and minister to one and other over our joys and concerns. If you identify as a member of the community, I'd love to hear whether you'd be interested in participating in such a fellowship. Please drop me a note (see directory) or contact the church to have a message forwarded.

Never forget the hope we have: ***The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed.***  
—Psalm 34:18 (NLT)

*Peace and blessings, Melinda Sims*

## Desert Southwest Annual Conference Report

I was privileged to be a delegate representing St. Mark's at the recently completed Desert Southwest Annual Conference. The five-hundred pastors and lay-persons present discussed and decided on a number of issues relating to governance at both the conference and local church levels. Beyond the routine matters the delegates grappled with the question, how should "straight" Christians relate to other Christians among us who identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community? Are we Christians, all of us, called by Christ to be accepting and loving toward one another, without preconditions or judgments? Or, are we who are heterosexual to consider ourselves favored by God, even superior, therefore free to treat people with differences harshly?

I am pleased that, resoundingly, the delegates landed on the side of unconditional acceptance.

Fifty years ago when our denomination changed its name to the United Methodist Church, our forebears grappled with the then awkward questions of racial integration, and the intentional ordination of women into full-time ministry. We can all be thankful for the foresight and courage of those who went before us. While the issues around sexual-orientation are not likely to be resolved quickly, I am glad that an impressive majority of the delegates at Annual Conference embraced our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters as full-fledged unequivocal participants of the Body of Christ.

*Robert Kittrell,*  
Lay Delegate Annual Conference

## **St. Mark's Worldwide Christian Support Task Force—Update** *U.S. Secretary of State releases State Department's 2018 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom*

The Report tracks countries to see how well they have respected the fundamental human right of religious freedom. Among the countries tracked are the six focus countries on which St. Mark's Task Force has concentrated—Nigeria, Egypt, India, Myanmar, Syria, and Mexico. This report provides excerpts on Nigeria. Future reports will report on the other focus countries.



The Report found that terrorist organizations and Islamic State-West Africa continued to attack religious targets including Christian and Muslim groups. On January 3, a Boko Haram suicide bomber attacked a Gambaru mosque killing and injuring people. According to Christian groups, on June 12, Boko Haram burned 22 buildings including a Catechetical Training Center. There were also incidents of violence reflecting tensions involving predominantly Muslim Fulani herders and predominantly Christian farmers. In January and May Fulani herdsmen attacked several villages in Guma, Logo, and Gwer in Benue State, killing more than 200 Christians. On June 23, they attacked villages in Plateau State killing approximately 200 Christians. In the midst of these attacks, Imam Abdullah Abubakar sheltered his Christian neighbors in his home and the mosque and refused the attackers entry.

In February, the Nigerian federal government launched Exercise Ayem Apatuma to combat armed ethnoreligious

conflict in Benue, Taraba, and Kogi States. In March the federal government sent security forces to halt the increasing brutal violence occurring in several Middle Belt states, where conflicts occurred between Muslim and Christian groups.

U.S. officials were active in promoting interfaith peace. The U.S. Ambassador hosted a number of interfaith dinners bringing together Muslim and Christian religious leaders, NGOs and journalists to encourage interfaith dialog. The Ambassador and other senior embassy officials participated in multiple interfaith conferences and summits encouraging Nigerian leaders to continue dialogue and work towards sustainable peace. In August, the Office of the Vice President collaborated with the U.S. Institute of Peace, and the National Human Rights Commission to organize a two-day Justice and Security National Dialogue which included government, military, paramilitary, and religious leaders, along with civil society organizations and representatives from farming communities. They agreed to set up state-level Justice and Security Dialogue models to manage ethnoreligious conflicts as well as criminal activities.

If you would like more information about persecuted Christians, or to join St. Mark's Christian Persecution Task Force, email us ([christianpersecutiontaskforce@gmail.com](mailto:christianpersecutiontaskforce@gmail.com)) or drop us a note at the church office.

## **School Starts Soon!**

It won't be long before the Nash Elementary School year begins in August! St. Mark's Nash Neighbors committee is collecting school supplies for Nash Elementary students and invites the congregation to donate classroom supplies. You may drop off your donations any Sunday during July at the blue bin in the courtyard. Thank you for your support of the children at Nash!

Items for collection:

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



## **Crafts Circle Meeting**

On Tuesday, July 23, our United Methodist Women will host a Crafts Circle meeting in Rm 17/18, at 9:00 a.m. until noon. Everyone is invited to join the group and may come as your schedule permits. Bring your craft ideas, examples of your favorite craft or extra craft supplies. You may work on a craft of your own, or help with items for the upcoming Crafts Fairs in Nov. and Dec.



### **Crafts and sewing donations needed!**

Donations of buttons, ribbon, styrofoam, beads, lace, cords, or anything else would be greatly appreciated. If you have questions or need your donation picked up, contact Bonnie Sargent (see directory).

# WASS UP?

July 10, 2019

Volume 20, Issue 13



## UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

**July 10-14—**  
Youth 2019  
Kansas City

**July 14, 2019—**  
4:00 to 6:00  
Meet for Bowling  
at Bedroxx  
\$5 plus snack money



**July 21, 2019—**  
4:00 to 6:00  
Bake Brownies for Soul Station  
Games, while brownies bake!

**Wednesday, July 24, 2019—**  
Serve meal at Soul Station  
Shifts:

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Greetings Preteen's,

Wow, this summer is going fast! There are those things in life that you can always count on, sunrises, sunsets, summer ending, vegetables and Jesus. Come join us at Preteen and explore what it means to count on Jesus and share our Faith while having fun.

Blessings,  
Julie

**July 14th-**  
What do Faith and Twinkies have in common? Toss in some cookies and it will definitely be something you don't want to miss.



**July 21st-**  
Movie Night - Bring a pillow and come enjoy a movie and popcorn.

**BRING FRIENDS.  
THEY'RE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf

a note from the

# YOUTH DIRECTOR

SSP (Sierra Service Project) was amazing! We went to San Diego a couple of days early to have some bonding time at Sea World and other local attractions. The first Sunday we were there, we worshipped at Hope UMC.

One of my favorite things about youth trips, especially mission trips, is that we get to share worship with new friends. Worship is what feeds us, as Christians. It gives us the fuel to go out and serve.

And, serve, we did. Our teams dug holes, poured concrete, set fence posts, constructed fences, & painted.

We were also served. The staff at the SSP site made sure that we had everything we needed, and the Imperial Beach community welcomed us, as if we were professionals. We were also blessed to have Seamus Flannery join us to serve as our 3rd chaperone.

Hopefully, that spirit of service is contagious. Pass it on.

Blessings,  
*Kim*

## Middle School Moments

Some of your high school friends, along with Kim, myself, and Seamus, all just got back from SSP. It was a fun week of sleeping on the floor, meeting new friends, and working hard to help people. By the time this letter is mailed out, another group of us will be on our way to the Youth 2019 Conference.

These trips, just like Middle School Mission, make us SO excited about our faith. They get us pumped up about our relationship with God, and everything we can do to spread His Word.

Once we get back from this last trip, and finish up our fun field trips for the summer, it's time to get back into the swing of things. You will get your school schedules, you will sign up for after school sports, and of course, everyone's favorite...homework!

We all need to work together to keep up that momentum we got over the summer; to keep being excited about our relationship with God. Bring friends with you to Youth Group, and even Sunday School! Let's stay excited!

See you Sunday!  
Rachel



Working and sharing a meal in Tijuana.



SSP kids visiting San Diego before starting work.



## Mark-a-ritas and Dinner!

The Mark-a-ritas (an informal social group made up of women in those mature middle-age years) will meet for dinner at Vero Amore Italian restaurant (12130 N Dove Mountain Blvd #104) Monday, July 22, at 6:00 p.m. If you've never hung out with us before or it has been a while, please join us. It will be chance to make new friendships or strengthen old ones. Please RSVP to Brenda Hunter (see directory) by July 19, so that we have an accurate count for the reservation.

## 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*

## CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Marilyn Vaughn who passed away on Sunday, June 20, 2019. Marilyn served at St. Mark's in many ways, including as a head usher and on our Worship Committee. Services will be held in New Jersey in August.

## 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

**Rachel Kester**, daughter of Don & Ruth Kester

**Sam Lennarson**, grandson of John & Sherri Lennarson

**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

## Sun., July 14

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. PreTeens, Rm 8/9  
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Off Campus

## Mon., July 15

9:15 a.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall  
6:00 p.m. Mary Poppins Movie, Fellowship Hall

## Wed., July 17

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: Biggest Scandal of the Old Testament
- Rm 17/18: Bible Journaling

## Thurs., July 18

Noon MESSENGER DEADLINE

## Sat., July 20

5:30 p.m. Common Grounds, Library  
6:00 p.m. Scavenger Hunt, OC (Common Grounds)

## Sun., July 21

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

## Mon., July 22

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

*\*This service is live-streamed.*



## St. Mark's Messenger

Published bi-weekly

St. Mark's UMC  
1431 W. Magee Road  
Tucson, AZ 85704  
(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.

\*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.

Over the years, I have been a part of the St. Mark's congregation and participated in missions work, however, I have never been the recipient until now. After my accident, the cards and letters that came (and still come) are too numerous to count. The phone calls, visits, gifts, flowers, food, and loving care have been overwhelming. As I slowly recover I cannot overstate how much your love and kindnesses have encouraged me. The daily ice cream delivery by Lenna Burnham sustained me for weeks, and the large-print devotional, brought by Linda Walker, (after I had learned to read a little) were indispensable. So to each of you I thank you. The time will come, when I will be back among you, and will personally give each of you my sincerest appreciation. With love and blessings, *Ellen Beene*

We would like to say thank you for all the expressions of sympathy we have received from our St. Mark's family after the passing of our father, Harold Mull. We have been surrounded by your love and prayers. We have definitely felt God's love.

*Linda and Pat Alcivar, Sue and Mark Olsen, Dave and Sherry Mull*



Children's Sunday School is in need of helpers for several classes beginning this fall. Volunteers come and assist the teachers but do not need to prepare anything. The only requirement is a desire to serve the children of our church and teach them about loving God and others. Also, you do not have to come every week, but can alternate with someone. Please contact Margaret ([margaret@umcstmarks.org](mailto:margaret@umcstmarks.org)) if you can help.

# JULY

Please note change!  
During the month of July St. Mark's church office will close at 3:00 p.m. daily. Office hours during July will be Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Thank you for your support and cooperation!

**Address Service Requested**

If you would like to receive the Messenger electronically, and discontinue your paper copy, submit a request to [messenger@umcstmarks.org](mailto:messenger@umcstmarks.org)

## Reflections

There's been so much heavy news in the United Methodist Church, our country and the world over the last few months, I thought I would just reflect for a bit on all the joys that I see.

I'm delighted to be appointed to continue serving as your Lead Pastor. Even on busy or discouraging days, I look around and see all the ways that people are serving, leading, encouraging one another, welcoming others, and supporting me and your other pastors. This is such a joy. Thank you!

Even though we've experienced quite a few staff changes, our staff continues to amaze me every day by their commitment, energy, support of one another, and care for the congregation. This is such a joy. Thank them!

Summer can be challenging in the desert and in our church. Attendance goes down and there are fewer programs and

ministries. Yet, we still are doing very well. People who cannot be in church or are away for the summer are now joining us via livestream and expressing great joy about that. Classes are being held, people are giving, and mission programs continue. This is such a joy. Praise God!

We are already looking toward August, return to school and church, and then toward fall. We've even begun planning for Advent. This is such a vital, strong, healthy church that I have great confidence that God will bring us through any current disruptions in the UMC. I expect we will be even stronger and clearer about who we are and what we are trying to do, in Jesus' name. Thanks be to God, who leads, guides and strengthens us.

Thanks  
GOD

*Blessings, Sharon*