

Messenger

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



St. Mark's Second Site to Launch First Worship

What do tables that fold into seating, a brand new cafeteria/auditorium, a portable altar, beautiful standing banners, an outreach campaign and lots of excitement have in common? All these and much more are part of St. Mark's Dove Mountain, our second site for worship. Here's more:

St. Mark's Dove Mountain will hold its first public worship service on Sunday, Oct. 20, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the Dove Mountain CSTEM School, just north and east of the intersection of Dove Mountain and Tangerine Roads. The address is 5650 W. Moore Rd., Marana.

While all other parts of the worship service will be live (music, prayers, children's time, etc.) the sermon will be streamed from our main site. In other words, whoever is preaching at St. Mark's main site will also be viewed preaching at Dove Mountain.

Main leadership at the second site is being provided by Kim Ogle, Site Director, and Rev. Evy McDonald, Pastoral Liaison. A team of people is working with them to launch the second site, including Pastors Sharon and Stuart. Pastors Sharon and Stuart will remain, though, at our main site.

Worship will be family friendly with tables and activities for children in the back of the sanctuary area. Care for infants and preschoolers will be provided during worship; older

children will be included in the worship service.

Music for worship will include both hymns and praise songs and will be led by a musician on keyboard and/or guitar. There won't be a band or choir, at least in the beginning.

We're renting the school for five hours on Sunday mornings. All other activities (youth group, classes and programs) will be at the main site, or in homes, restaurants, or coffee shops.

Watch for publicity about the new site. An outreach campaign has been well planned to include a mailing, ads and social media.

Help is needed! Assistance in hospitality, setup and cleanup, childcare, and much more is needed. Please see page 4 of this **Messenger** for information about signing up to help.

The purpose of launching the second site is to reach new people with the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ. We believe that St. Mark's is called to extend ourselves, offering what we're privileged to have to others. I'm very excited about what God will do through us.

Sharon Ragland

P. S. Questions? Contact me at info@umcstmarks.org.

Christian Education Sunday Bible Distribution



On Sunday, Sept. 8, our church celebrated Christian Education Sunday. This celebration recognizes the hard work and dedication of all teachers and facilitators of children, youth, and adults. These volunteers serve others in the church by helping and guiding them in their spiritual growth. We thank them all.

Christian Education Sunday is also the day that we give Bibles to our 3rd graders and students in 4th/5th grades who had not received one yet. This year, the Bible is an NRSV edition in which the words spoken by Jesus appear in red ink. This gift is something the children can use now and always.

Features left to right: Hope Howell, Olivia Merchen, Nevea Monteverde, Addison Ritchey, Nolan Tate, Kevin Toner, Madeline Martin. **Missing from photo:** Edward Doyle, Andrew Norine, Emma Tobler, Riley Tobler

Silverwood Duo in Concert

Sunday, Sept. 15 kicks off this season's concert series, Musical Musings. The Silverwood Duo — a flute and guitar combination - will perform in the Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. This concert is free and open to the community. Members of St. Mark's congregation are encouraged to attend and bring friends, neighbors, and members of their families. A freewill offering will be collected following the concert.



Kids Night Out!



Calling all kids Kindergarten through 5th grade to an awesome evening of fun. Join us on **Friday, Sept. 27**, from 5:00–8:00 p.m. for pizza, movies, and a great time! There is no cost, and no need to register. Get your parents to drop you off for this outing designated **just for kids!**

Art Coordinator Needed for Welcome Center

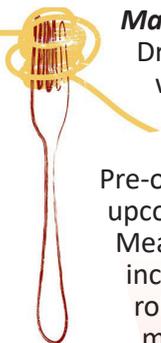
The current art exhibit located in our Welcome Center was painted by Donna McDonald, Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald's mother. Make sure you take a few minutes on Sunday, or during the week, to check out these wonderful oil paintings that Evy has shared. The first week of October we will have a new "moving display" called VOICES from the Community Food Bank that will be on exhibit until mid-November.

If you have an art collection (any medium) that you would like displayed in the Welcome Center, please contact Shelley Gault, in the church office. She will work with you to get your exhibited scheduled.

Also, there is an immediate need for an art coordinator to manage the Welcome Center displays. Those duties include hanging, dismantling, and then returning materials to the artist when the exhibit closes. Also, working with Shelley Gault on the schedule, and collecting information from the exhibitor for an artist biography, along with titles and short narratives of the display pieces that are included in the artist brochure.

If you would like to assist Shelley Gault with the Welcome Center art displays, contact her (shelley@umcstmarks.org or 297-2062).

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser



Mark your calendar now! St. Mark's UMW Drive-through Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser will be held Friday, Oct. 4, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Pre-order forms will be available in an upcoming **Messenger** and the Sunday bulletin. Meals are served in spill-proof containers and include spaghetti and meatballs, toss salad, roll with butter, and cookies. Vegetarian meals are available on request. The cost is \$8/meal.

Just drive into the south parking lot of the church the evening of the fundraiser and pick up your meal without leaving your car!

Proceeds and donations support Missions in Tucson, the United States and around the world. If you have questions, please contact Kay Hayworth (mkayhayworth@gmail.com or 520-579-0533).

Heroes of the Faith Movie Series Returns Tuesday, Sept. 24

Join **Judy Boroto** and **Linda Walker** as they host the showing of **The Mission** starring Robert DiNero, Jeremy Irons, Aiden Quinn, Liam Neeson. This movie relates the experiences of a Jesuit missionary in 18th-century South America and the plight of the indigenous tribe under colonialism. Spanish Jesuit priest Father Gabriel (Irons) enters the northeastern Argentina and eastern Paraguayan jungle to build a mission station and convert a Guaraní community to Christianity who are not initially receptive to Christianity or outsiders in general. He is joined by a penitent conquistador and slaver (DiNero) as they both try to save the Guaraní from Portuguese colonialism, although they disagree on how this should be done. Although it has a 1986 PG rating, there is violence. It runs two hours. Popcorn will be provided, please bring your own beverage. Showtime is 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



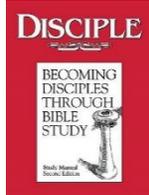
Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

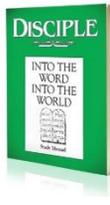
Disciple Bible Study

an important step in your spiritual formation journey

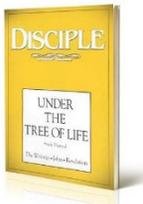
If you have never participated in an in-depth Bible study, then **Disciple I: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study** is for you. It's a 34-week survey of the entire Bible that gives the overarching message of God's promises, steadfast love, and grace. It is led by Margaret Synhorst and Marjie Hrabe. Mondays, 6:00-8:00 p.m. beginning Sept. 23.



If you've taken Disciple I, then please continue your journey with **Disciple II: Into the Word, Into the World**. This focuses on the beginnings of the Jewish and Christian faiths by taking a closer look at Genesis-Exodus and Luke-Acts. You spend eight weeks in each book during this 32-week study. It is being led by Pastor Stuart Salvatierra and Marci Hill on Mondays, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The first meeting was Sept. 9 but it's still not too late to sign up. Contact Pastor Stuart this week (520-981-3202 or stuart@umcstmarks.org) to obtain the materials.



And for those of you who have always wondered about the book of Revelation or have interest in the Psalms and Proverbs, **Disciple IV: Under the Tree of Life** is for you. This 32-week study takes a closer look at the writings of the Old Testament: Ruth, Esther, Ecclesiastes, Job and others as well as the writings of John in the New Testament (Gospel of John, 1, 2, 3 John). It is led by Linda Walker and Marlyce Wright on Tuesdays, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. The orientation meeting was yesterday, Sept. 10, but it is still possible to begin as the first lesson does not begin until Sept. 17. Contact Linda this week (520-297-4965 or lwalker7251@comcast.net) to obtain the materials.

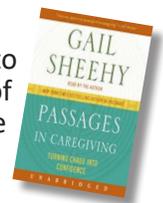


All books for these studies are \$35, but scholarships are available. Please speak with the respective leaders for more information.

Passages in Caregiving: Turning Chaos Into Confidence

Begins Thursday, Oct. 10, 12:30 p.m., Library (six weeks)
Led by Mary Lu Kiracofe

As a caregiver, you understand how difficult it is to make time for your own needs, and yet it is essential to your own stamina, mental health and quality of caregiving. Using the book and the support and insight of the class participants, we will explore issues ranging from receiving and understanding the diagnosis, the art of advocacy, ways of mobilizing family, friend and community resources, and last but not least, valued self-care strategies. Class size is limited, so be sure to register early online at www.umcstmarks.org or call Mary Lu Kiracofe. If you would like, you may purchase or borrow the book, **Passages in Caregiving**. Copies are available at the church Library, or from the public library. There is no charge for the class.



One-Day Retreat

The Way of Jesus: Communication as Spiritual Practice

Saturday, Sept. 21, 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.,
Redemptorist Renewal Center (Picture Rocks)

This retreat focuses on an aspect of our daily experience that we tend to overlook: in the times in which we live, the quality of our communicating should be an essential spiritual practice. During this retreat we will focus on the connections among adult development, our spiritual development and our communication habits and patterns. The goal is to expand our capacity to mindfully and compassionately BE with others, in ways that Jesus promoted. This particularly addresses those with different perspectives, values, and beliefs, but also how we relate with family, friends, and loved ones.

There is still space available for additional participants. The limit is 40. Carpooling can be arranged as well as special dietary needs. Sign up online or at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board now so you do not miss out on this important experience. The cost is \$40 with scholarships available.

Open Minds Book Study

Friday, Sept. 27, 9:30-11:00 a.m., church Library

In about two weeks, on Friday, Sept. 25, we will begin our fall season with the book **Thank You for Being Late** by Thomas Friedman. It is a discussion about what Friedman and others call the Age of Acceleration—the times in which we find ourselves living today. Some issues we may address include:

- What do you recall about 2007?
- What does Friedman suggest are ways to cope (as individuals and as communities) with the changes taking place so rapidly today?



See you soon! We will meet in the church Library as usual. Coffee and a snack will be available! Your team leaders this year are Todd and Tyger Penson.

Looking ahead – The book selection for next month (Oct. 25) is **Educated: A Memoir** by Tara Westover. This is among the ten best books of 2018, as rated by *The New York Times*. More on that later!

Membership 101 Starts Soon!

Have you been wanting to know more about this terrific church? Are you considering membership at St. Mark's? Would you like to become better acquainted with our staff and meet more fellow worshippers?

If so, you are warmly invited to our next **Membership 101** class in the church Library on Sunday morning, Oct. 6. Childcare will be available for those who request it. You may sign up on Sundays at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board in the courtyard, online at the church website under CLASSES, or call Tricia (297-2062) in the church office.



Membership 101 is a chance to intentionally explore becoming a member of our church—the decision of whether or not to join at the end of the class is entirely your own. If you choose to join, there will be an optional tour, light luncheon, and walk-through on Saturday, Oct. 19, and joining Sunday will be during the 9:45 a.m. service on Oct. 20.

If these October dates don't fit your schedule, watch the **Messenger** and Sunday bulletin for news about class dates in January 2020.

Lay Visitation Training

Christ puts a call on our hearts to love others as we love ourselves. Sometimes as a church this causes us to look outward towards the world to find a place to make a difference in the name of God. Other times it calls us to be a



little introspective and love those who are already a part of our church family in the name of God. This latter call is a part of the call of many people who are a part of lay visitation. If this sounds like something that the Spirit is leading you towards you are invited to come explore this call.

We will explore this call together through a series of trainings that will prepare people for visitation ministry. This exploration/training will take place Thursdays Oct. 10, 17, and 24, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., in Rm. 20. If you are curious about this opportunity and wish to know more please contact Pastor Stuart (stuart@umcstmarks.org) for more details, or if you plan to attend!

JOIN US for LUNCH!

The **Over 50 Lunch Group** will meet Tuesday, Sept. 17, at Mimi's Cafe. The restaurant is located near the Tucson Mall. Please contact Deb Brown (dbrown6@verizon.net or 412-889-0471) if you plan to attend. We would love to have new people join the group!



Volunteers Needed for St. Mark's Dove Mountain Site

We are called to spread the **Good News** as told in the Gospels, but many of us find that an intimidating challenge, and shy away from it. As it turns out, we now have a chance to carry out that charge in a way that many find is more natural: by being good hosts at our second worship site at Dove Mountain CSTEM School! There are many ways to serve as a host, as indicated by the following list:

- Transporting materials to the worship site (beginning Oct. 6)
- Helping with setup (beginning Oct. 6)
- Helping with take down (beginning Oct. 6)
- Transporting materials to storage (beginning Oct. 6)
- Serving as greeter (beginning Oct. 6)
- Serving as refreshment host (beginning Oct. 6)
- Worshipping on site during soft launch (Oct. 6 and 13)
- Worshipping on site for six months (beginning Oct. 20)
- Worshipping on site for one year (beginning Oct. 20)
- Serving as preschool teacher for six months (beginning Oct. 6)
- Serving as preschool teacher for one year (beginning Oct. 6)
- Serving as a paid nursery attendant for six months (beginning Oct. 6)
- Serving as a paid nursery attendant for one year (beginning Oct. 6)



If one of these activities interest you or if you have questions, please contact Kim Ogle (kim@umcstmarks.org), or Pastor Evy (evy@umcstmarks.org). Please note: if you are thinking about making the new location your worship home, it is important that you let either Kim or Pastor Evy know. We need to have enough people present that it looks inviting to our guests, but not so many that there is no space for guests!

What IS the Walk to Emmaus?

You've heard it mentioned. You've seen people with rainbow colored lanyards and a cross. You might have even noticed some roosters around St. Mark's campus. But, what exactly is this Walk to Emmaus anyway?

Luke relates the story of two disciples of Jesus who were going along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. As these two friends were walking together, they shared their hearts' deepest concerns about the death of Jesus. An unknown person joined them and explained the Scriptures as they walked. Toward the end of the day's travel, they urged the stranger to eat with them. As the stranger took bread, blessed, broke, and shared it with them, their eyes were opened and they recognized the risen Christ (Luke 24:13-35).

The Walk to Emmaus is a 72 hour experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation. You will enjoy three busy days of singing, learning, laughing, praying, worshipping, and participating in small groups. Discussions center around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy. The theme of each talk is God's grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community, and how it expresses itself in the world. You'll discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace, and bring grace to others. You will experience God's grace through prayers and acts of anonymous service offered by members of the Emmaus community. You will leave with an experience of Christian love in action that will equip you for new levels of grace-filled service and leadership.



Emmaus is for people who want to grow spiritually and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. Emmaus is for those who want to build up the church in love and to contribute to its ministry. Emmaus has room for a great variety of Christians who seek to grow, share, and give themselves to a three day walk with Christ. Emmaus is not a relaxing retreat. Except for break times, Emmaus is a very full experience. Come with empty hands and open hearts, planning to give yourself completely to the Emmaus Walk.

The Walk to Emmaus is gender specific. This year, the men's weekend will be March 6-8, and the women's weekend will be March 13-15. Both of the walks will be held at Sierra Vista United Methodist Church.

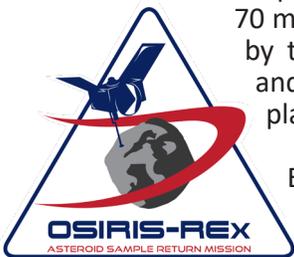
There are two things you must do before you go on the Walk to Emmaus. You need to have a sponsor who is already part of the Emmaus Community. If someone is inviting you personally to go, chances are that person is either willing to be your sponsor or find a sponsor for you. More than one person can sponsor you. So, if you have a couple of friends who would like to support you, that is perfectly acceptable. The other step you need to take is to fill out an application. The application is very basic and requires a pastor's signature.

The best thing you can do as a prospective pilgrim (one who is preparing for the weekend) is ask lots of questions. Talk to people you know have already been on a Walk to Emmaus. Have them get an application for you. You would truly be surprised to find out just how many members of St. Mark's congregation are part of the Emmaus Community!

Learn about OSIRIS-REX!

St. Mark's United Methodist Women (UMW) will meet in Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, Sept. 17**. Please join us at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship and refreshments, and our program at 7:00 p.m.

Delores Hill, our guest speaker, will talk about the OSIRIS asteroid mission at the University of Arizona. The mission of the spacecraft OSURUS-REX operated by UA is to collect samples from the distant asteroid Bennu, 70 million miles away. This mission is led by the UA including the science team and the mission's science observation planning and data processing.

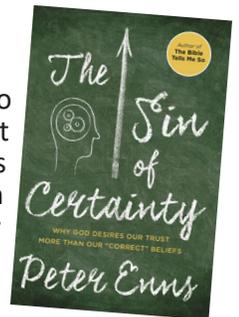


Everyone is welcome at the meeting—you do not need to be a member of St. Mark's UMW or our church to attend.

Childcare will be available if requested through church office (297-2062) prior to Sept. 13. If you have questions or need a ride, contact Kay Hayworth (mkayhayworth@gmail.com) or 520-579-0533).

Digital Book Study

St. Mark's will be launching a new way to reach people by piloting a new class that will be offered exclusively online. This class, in a video format, will be based on the Peter Enns book ***The Sin of Certainty: Why God Desires Our Trust More Than Our "Correct" Beliefs*** for 6 sessions.



These videos will be released every two weeks starting Sept. 23, through the beginning of Advent. This book attempts to explain how Christians often mistake "certainty" and "correct belief" for faith, when what God really desires is trust and intimacy. Our first class/video will focus on the "Uhh Ohh" moments in our lives that effect our faith and how God uses these moments to expand us.

Please tune in and become a part of the conversation surrounding this wonderful book and topic! Reading the book is not necessary but it will help. The book is available on Amazon, Audible, Cokesbury, and Barnes and Noble.

For more information on this experiment with online learning please contact Pastor Stuart (stuart@umcstmarks.org).

Update from Worldwide Christian Support Task Force

Update from Worldwide Christian Support Task Force
British Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt Orders Review of
Worldwide Christian Persecution - Interim Report finds
Persecution of Christians at Near Genocidal Levels

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt ordered a review of the persecution of Christians and what the stance has been of Britain toward it. In doing so, he cited an International Society for Human Rights report that Christians are victims of 80% of all acts of religious discrimination. He stated "I am not convinced that our response to the threats facing this particular group has always matched the scale of the problem, nor taken into account of the hard evidence that Christians often endure a disproportionate burden of persecution." He appointed Bishop Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro to lead the review. In doing so, he stated "It is not in our national character to turn a blind eye to suffering.

All religious minorities must be protected and the evidence demonstrates that in some countries, Christians face the greatest risk."



The Interim report found, "Evidence shows not only the geographic spread of anti-Christian persecution, but also its increasing severity." It stated, "In some regions, the level and nature of persecution is arguably coming close to meeting the international definition of genocide, according to that adopted by the UN."

If you would like more information about persecuted Christians, or to join St. Mark's Christian Persecution Task Force, email us at christiansupport@umcstmarks.org. or drop a note in our mailbox at the church office.



Craft Circle Meeting

St. Mark's United Methodist Women (UMW) invite you to join our newly formed Craft Circle Tuesday, Sept. 24, Rm. 17/18 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Everyone is welcome to come as their 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 others with a craft for the UMW craft fairs in Nov. and Dec. Donations: We're still looking for craft and sewing supplies such as buttons, ribbon, Styrofoam, beads, lace, cords or anything else. Please contact Bonnie Sargent (602-320-1501 or azsgt1@yahoo.com) if you have questions or need your donations picked up.

PRAYER CORNER

We are a praying community at St. Mark's. Besides Sunday worship, you may submit prayer requests by email to prayerchain@umcstmarks.org. You may also, visit our Prayer Room on campus and leave a prayer on our prayer wall.

*Ellen Beene
Jared Bowman & family
Donald Chester
Shelley Shelton Coltrin
Deb Cushman*

*Judy Drescher
April DuBoce
Keith and Mary Ann Glazier
Jim and Mary Sanders
Carol Underwood*

*Jackie Vickers
Dave and Jan Webster
Lindsay Williams*

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

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

Hank Bautzmann, son of Nancy Bautzmann
Alex Boettcher, grandson of Carla and Paul Boettcher
Christian Bowers, grandson of Doug & Charlotte Bowers
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
Don Lauver, Son-in-law of Linda Connolly
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



WASS UP?

September 11, 2019

Volume 20, Issue 17



UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

September 15, 2019—

4:00 to 6:00

Funtastics
Water park,
go carts, golf....



September 22, 2019—

4:00 to 6:00

High School
Discussion Study
Middle School
Un-Birthday Party
Complete with cake & gifts

September 29, 2019—

1:30 to 4:00

Youth Leadership Team
(See second page)

4:00 to 6:00

Pretzel Prayers

Greetings Preteen Families,
We're off on another amazing year of Fun Filled Fellowship. Bring a friend and join us on Sunday's from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Each week is a different activity or field trip. Our group is a chance to socialize while having fun and learning about God. Hope to see you Sunday.
Blessings,
Julie

September 15th -
Field Trip / Ice cream run to Dairy Queen. You will need a permission slip and \$1.00.

September 22nd -
Board Games- Bring your favorite game from home to share.

September 29th-
Cooking Activity. Lets mix up something amazing !!



Some of our friends

Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf

CONFIRMATION BEGAN SEPT. 8

Confirmation is for students in Grades 8 and above, who have not, yet, been confirmed. We meet Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in room 20, next to the library. Confirmation runs 9/8/19 to 5/10/20.

EVEN IF YOU MISSED THE FIRST MEETING, YOU CAN STILL JOIN CONFIRMATION!

Contact Rachel—
rachel@mcstmarks.Org

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETS 9/29

Calling all leaders! On September 29, we will start the Youth Leadership Team. The St. Mark's Youth Leadership Team is a student leadership team that gets to help plan and run part of youth group meetings throughout the year. Contact Kim or Rachel for an application, so you can be a part of this fun new group! The Youth Leadership Team will have three trainings throughout the year. There won't be other meetings—just those three.

Heads up: This is a great thing to put on school applications!

Friends Welcome
for

High School Discussion Study

1. High School Students to meet off campus to discuss contemporary topics and how they relate to what we know about the Bible. We meet at the Wesley House and then go to another location for discussion.
2. It frequently involves Starbucks.
3. While all high schoolers are invited, 9th graders have the option of staying at the Wesley House for that night's program.
4. It happens every other Sunday.

THE NEXT ONE IS SEPTEMBER 22.

Calendar Notes

Sunday, Sept. 15

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
8:30 a.m. Rainbow Fellowship, Library
*9:45 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. The Gathering, Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Common Grounds, Rm. 20
3:00 p.m. Silverwood Duo Concert, 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

Monday, Sept. 16

9:15 a.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. Grief Support, Counselor's Office

Tuesday, Sept. 17

9:15 a.m. Grace Circle, Library
11:30 a.m. Over 50s Lunch (off campus)

Wednesday, Sept. 18

Noon BULLETIN DEADLINE

5:45 p.m. Soul Station Dinner, Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m. Common Grounds, Library
6:20 p.m. Soul Station program

Thursday, Sept. 19

Noon MESSENGER DEADLINE
2:00 p.m. Companions In Christ, Library

Saturday, Sept. 21

10:30 a.m. Finance subteam, Conf. Rm.
6:00 p.m. Common Grounds, Library

Sunday, Sept. 22

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
*9:45 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. The Gathering, Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Common Grounds, Rm. 20
4:00 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. PreTeens, Rm. 8/9
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Wesley House

**This service is live-streamed.*



St. Mark's Messenger

Published bi-weekly

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Email:

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Website:

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Lead Pastor:

Rev. Sharon Ragland

Associate Pastors:

Stuart Salvatierra

Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald

Sunday Worship:

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

*Live-streamed at

www.umcstmarks.org

Soul Station

Wednesday Night:

Dinner - 5:45 p.m.

Music/Programs

6:15-7:15 p.m.

Dear Rev. Ragland, Pastor Salvatierra, Rev. Dr. McDonald, and Congregation,

Thank you for your gesture of condolences and support in the wake of the shooting in our neighborhood. We continue to mourn those lives that have been lost and forever changed and trust that God is at work as we continue to work for peace and justice. We are reminded that we are not alone in this work every time we see your banner! Thank you again for reaching out!



AW Feltz, St. Paul's UMC (El Paso, TX)

The HeartWorks project has supplied 600 bags to children through Child Protective Services since Jan. 2019. These lovingly sewn bags replace plastic bags to carry children's belongings.

Many thanks to those who have donated their time and energy to make this possible. We appreciated you all so much. If you are interested in assisting with this heartfelt mission, kits are available in the courtyard on Sunday mornings. **Fabric and thread donations are always welcome.** Contact Linda Sterling or Joyce Flick for more information.

Greetings from Colorado! Many thanks to all the St. Mark's family that have called and sent cards. Byron is working hard to be able to stand and walk again. All prayers are accepted!

Blessings, Amy and Byron Uhrich

Address Service Requested

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Reflections

Over this last year, I have been witness to heart-bursting changes. Last fall caterpillars appeared on the milkweed plant on our patio. At first, this was surprising and unexpected. Over the next few months, I had the privilege of watching caterpillars eat the plants to the stalks, spin chrysalides, and emerge as queen or monarch butterflies. This cycle happened several times from October, 2018 to July, 2019. Some cycles resulted in lots of surviving butterflies that we released. Other cycles were heartbreaking as caterpillars or chrysalides didn't survive. Yet I got to watch and be part of transformations that burst my heart with wonder, joy and occasional sorrow.



Sometimes I think about the changes that God has worked in me over the years. God has opened Scripture to me through study and prayer so that passages that I once saw one way I now see differently because of learning about the setting or history or the stories of which they are a part. God is always challenging me to grow and change. When I'm willing to do that, I find myself closer to God, deeper into the love of Jesus. When I'm unwilling to grow and change and think that I have my faith and my understanding of Scripture all figured out, I discover that I'm all puffed up and self-centered, over-sure of myself. That's also when I become fearful, probably because I've left God in the dust somewhere.

Change sometimes comes at or around us. Other times, God asks us to be the ones to start a change or two. Rev. Rob Schenk writes "in Scripture, we are directed—even commanded—to change. We are to go from being fearful to being courageous (Joshua 1:9), from being anxious to being thankful (Philippians 4:6-7), from being deceitful and corrupt to living by what is true and good (Ephesians 4:22-24), from wanton sinfulness to confession, from self-condemnation to acceptance of God's gracious forgiveness (1 John 1:9), and from our old nature to a new self, reflecting the nature of a God who is love (Colossians 3:10, 1 John 4:7-8)."

In worship this month, we're focusing on ***Making Our Way in Our United Methodist Tradition.*** John Wesley, founder of Methodism, believed that God gave us free will, the ability to choose for good or evil, for change or resistance to it. In this season I'm challenging myself to listen for God's challenges—what one thing each day is God asking me to learn? How is God asking me to change in order to love more fully and know God more deeply? How about you?

And I'm hoping more caterpillars arrive on my patio this fall.

Blessings, Sharon