

# Messenger

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



## 2020 Stewardship Campaign

The Finance Committee would like to express its sincere gratitude for the faithful and generous giving during 2019. Your gifts yielded benefits within all of St. Mark's ministries and missions, and demonstrated that our community is enthusiastically "responding in faith," to do God's work!

The 2020 Stewardship Campaign will kick off on Sunday, October 20. This year's campaign theme is, ***What the Bible Really Says About Love***. Our guiding Scripture is from 1 Thessalonians 3:12, the New International Version reading, "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other..."

You won't want to miss our four thought-provoking videos starring a Bible expert and individuals from our congregation, as they discover biblical answers to today's relevant questions about "LOVE." We believe you'll find the 2020 Stewardship Campaign both informative and entertaining. And we hope the presentations will encourage your continued support of St. Mark's since together we are, "changing the world through Christ by caring for all people."

*St. Mark's Finance Committee*



## The Dust Devils Concert



**A NEW EXPERIENCE!** St. Mark's concert series, Musical Musings, is sponsoring a bluegrass outdoor concert on **Sunday, October 6**. The performance will take place on the west patio of the church's campus at 3:00 p.m.

Providing music for the event will be the Tucson based band, The Dust Devils. This group focuses on 'newgrass' bluegrass and creating their own original bluegrass music. These instrumentalists debuted back in 2012, and still love performing and telling stories through their unique style of music and song.

Join us for this musical fellowshiping experience. The concert is free and open to the community, so be sure to bring family, neighbors, and friends for a fun-filled afternoon of upbeat music.

## Blessing of the Animals!

**Save the date** for St. Mark's annual Blessing of the Animals! Join us with your pets (or their photos) on **Sunday, October 13, at 4:00 p.m.** on the labyrinth. More details coming soon!



## Annual Church Conference



Our church's Annual Church Conference will be held on **Monday, October 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Mark Conrad, will lead us in the annual business meeting followed by a meeting to talk about the United Methodist Church. All are welcome to attend; members may vote. Save the date!

## Hurricane Relief-UMCOR

To give to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for relief efforts for Hurricane Dorian, make out a check to St. Mark's and put "Hurricane Relief-UMCOR" in the notes. You may also give online at our website [www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org) **GIVING**, or visit [UMCOR.org](http://UMCOR.org) to give directly.



## Pumpkins Arrive October 12!

Whether you are new to St. Mark's or a seasoned Pumpkin Patch veteran, you can't help but be amazed at the sea of orange around here in October.



A semi-tractor/trailer full of pumpkins will pull into the south parking lot on **Saturday, Oct. 12**. (ETA 11:00 a.m.) If you're available that day, come on out and help pass the little orange moneymakers down a line of friends until the truck is empty. Come-and-go help is also welcomed. You may want to bring gloves and sunscreen.

Each year, this experience proves that a little work is amply rewarded with lots of fun and fellowship! There will be a wide variety of sizes and prices to choose from, so the sooner you shop, the better the selection! Tell your friends, or better yet, bring them along!

Again this year, the youth are looking for adult volunteers who are available during the day to staff the patch until school is out. If you can sign up for a two-hour shift (or several of them!) between October 13 and 31, we will sincerely appreciate it. Watch for a sign-up link coming soon.

The Pumpkin Patch profits go to fund youth missions (Sierra Service Project), support retreats, and support our local service projects.

## Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

### Place your orders now!

St. Mark's UMW drive-through spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held Friday, October 4, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



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. Use the preorder form below to order this delicious meal!

On Oct., 4, just drive into the south parking lot of the church 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 (see directory).

## Spaghetti Dinner PREORDER FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) or (home) \_\_\_\_\_

**Money is collected when you pick up your meal(s).**

Number of meat meals for pick up: \_\_\_\_\_

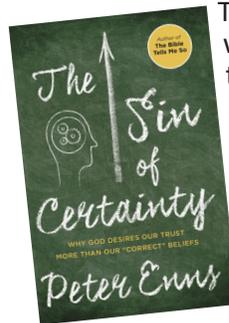
Number of vegetarian meals for pick up: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate pick up time of the order: \_\_\_\_\_

*Place your completed form in the offering plate on Sunday morning or in the UMW mailbox in the church office during the week. No money/check is needed with this preorder form.*

## Digital Book Study

St. Mark's is launching 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 six sessions.



These videos will be released every two weeks starting the week of 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 contact Pastor Stuart ([stuart@umcstmarks.org](mailto:stuart@umcstmarks.org)).

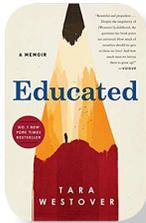
# Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

## Open Minds Book Study

**FIRST:** This **Friday, Sept. 27**, at 9:30 a.m. come to the church library. Our discussion book is ***Thank You for Being Late*** by Thomas Friedman. With so many topics for discussion, there should be plenty to share! Coffee will be served. Come one and all!

**SECOND:** The book selection for **Friday, Oct. 25** will be ***Educated*** by Tara Westover. This is a powerful and well-written memoir of Tara Westover who first entered a classroom at the age of 17. What kept her away? She was born to a large family of survivalists in the mountains of Idaho. Their family focus was to prepare for the end of the world. Education wasn't on the list of priorities!



It is an unforgettable memoir of a young girl who, kept out of school, eventually leaves her family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. Buy or borrow the book. Read it and then plan on sharing your thoughts, your experiences, and your insights at the October book study!

## The Four Agreements

Begins Thursday, Oct. 10, 10:00-11:30 a.m. (4 weeks)  
In ***The Four Agreements***, Don Miguel Ruiz reveals the source of self-limiting beliefs that rob us of joy and create needless suffering. Based on ancient Toltec wisdom, ***The Four Agreements*** offer a powerful code of conduct that can rapidly transform our lives to a new experience of freedom, true happiness, and love. Come and join us for four weeks to learn how to live life more fully and be more loving to ourselves and each other.

## South District United Methodist Women Annual Meeting

Calling all St. Mark's United Methodist Women and others who might like to attend! The South District UMW Annual Meeting is Saturday, Oct. 12, at St. Francis in the Foothills UMC, Tucson.

You can pick up a registration form and more information from the United Methodist Women mailbox at the church office. The cost, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch is \$20. The registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 4.

If you have questions, or would like to carpool to the meeting, please contact Kay Hayworth (see directory).

## Retreat Reflections

### *The Way of Jesus: Communication as Spiritual Practice*

Kim Pearce presented very thought-provoking material at Picture Rock Redemptorist Renewal Center, site of our fall retreat last Saturday, Sept. 21. Twenty-two persons listened in rapt attention, but also were active participants in the process she presented.

The obvious question to be answered was what our thoughts were as to ***The Way of Jesus***. Although several pages were filled with ideas from individuals, it came down to compassion, love, justice, and a close relationship with God. Thinking less of Self and more of the Other. Showing the radical nature of compassion and mercy of ***The Way***.

As Christians we strive to emulate this, but often fall far short. Kim took us through five different levels of "social consciousness." Starting with being totally centered on SELF, to being centered on the OTHER, and how we can shift the paradigm of how we think and respond in our interactions with other people.

Through storytelling and small group discussions, we were presented with scenarios that gave us pause for thought as to how our interactions can be more compassionate and thus more transformative as we seek to deepen our relationship with God and with others.

Here are just some of the comments heard:

~ I have come away with much to ponder, but with means to change and ways to make a better social world. How amazing, uplifting, and certainly pleasing to the question, "What would Jesus do?"

~ Very organized, good time management; nice mix of breaks/lunch with content. I thoroughly enjoyed the day.

~ Well-planned. Presentation very helpful in living out our spiritual journey. Grateful.

## 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 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in Rm. 20. If you are curious about this opportunity please contact Pastor Stuart ([stuart@umcstmarks.org](mailto:stuart@umcstmarks.org)) for more details, or if you plan to attend!

## Membership 101 Starts Soon!

There is still room in our Membership class if you are interested in becoming a member at St. Mark's. Join us in the church Library on Sunday morning, Oct. 6.



Registration is required, so please 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. Childcare will be available for those who request it.

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. 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.

## Meditation Garden Workday

Mark your calendar for the Meditation Garden workday Saturday, Oct. 19, 7:00 a.m. **We are in need of many volunteers** to cleanup and trim plants that are recovering due to a serious water source problem over the summer. For a period of several weeks, that area was without water due to a main water source supply issue for the garden. A few



plants have died and many are in recovery. The work will include removing dead plants, trimming back some of the recovering plants, and path maintenance.

Water and pastries will be provided. Thank You in advance for your time and service!

*Clay Thompson,  
Meditation Garden Board Chairman*

## Domestic Violence Awareness

October is **Domestic Violence Awareness** month. Emerge! Stuff the Bus will be collecting supplies for domestic violence survivors at two drive-by locations in October:

- Friday Oct. 4, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Geico Corp. Office (3050 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Way)
- Friday Oct. 18, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Oro Valley Target Shopping Center (10555 N. Oracle)

Much needed supplies include new toiletries, clothes, linens, and gift cards. For a complete list, check out the Mission's board at church.



## St. Mark's Early Childhood Center Serving Our Children for 45 Years

Since 1974, thousands of children (120 children this year) have been blessed by the excellent teachers and staff. Their dedication to the children, and the caring they exemplify each day, gives every child at the ECC the benefit of a great start in school and in life. A big THANK YOU to all who serve!

### Toddlers

Mary Dunlap  
Diana Espinoza  
Lily Espinoza  
Linda Galaz  
Debby Kelly

### Extended Day 3's and 4's

Aylin Gamez  
Elizabeth Gruenwald  
Laurie Harvey  
Katie Kemp  
Kerry Nelson  
Rachel Riggs

### STEM

Christa Isom

### Kindergarten

Jamie Graham  
Rachel Ball

### Preschool

Amy Boynton  
Sharon Secrest  
Robin Vanderkolk  
Jaime Vidinha

### Volunteers

Doug Bowers, Music  
Phyllis Dirksen, Librarian  
Barbara Rosano, Kinder Art

### Office Staff

Laurie Walsh, Director  
Sue Flayer, Assist. Director/Bookkeeper  
Julie Lau, Administrative Assistant

## 2019 Tax Credit Donations to St. Mark's Early Childhood Center

Your generous tax credit donations allowed many of our Kindergarten students to attend St. Mark's ECC's Kindergarten program at a discounted rate and/or tuition-free! By making a tax credit donation for 2019 you can receive dollar-for-dollar credit on your Arizona State Income Tax bill.

Please consider making a tax credit donation to help our 2019/2020 students. Go to: [ibescholarships.org](http://ibescholarships.org) to make your tax credit donation or you may pick up a donation brochure and envelope in the Early Childhood Center office. You may also call the school office (797-2925) for more information. Tax credits for the 2019 tax year can be made any time until April 15, 2020, or when you file your 2019 Arizona tax return, whichever date is earlier.

Thank you for your support of a great education!

## One Church, Two Locations

An update from St. Mark's Dove Mountain UMC

"One Church, Two Locations" has been our motto for some time, but there's a third component that isn't quite as well known. It's the beautiful new storage facility at Thornydale and Tangerine. The facility is climate controlled, very accessible, and reasonably priced. It's kind of the honorary third location.



Recently, everything from coffee, to an altar, to a pack-n-play has been filtered from UPS through my office and up the elevator to our storage space. It's like a birthday party every week!

Several people have asked how the Dove Mountain site will be set up for worship. The storage, transportation, and set up is very much like "Church in a Box." We have specifically measured racks and bins that will be rolled from our storage space, into the church trailer, and up the ramp at the CSTEM K-8 School to the cafeteria. After worship, materials will be loaded back into the bins and racks and transported back into storage, where they'll wait for the next Sunday. A few of us on the Second Site Team actually witnessed this process when we visited a multi-site church in Dallas. It's way easier than moving your furniture around, because everything we've ordered folds and/or has wheels.

We're grateful to those who have volunteered to help with the site. We still need volunteers to help set up and take down, as well as a few people who can help with preschool and elementary children during worship.

To say that we're excited for the opportunity to reach new people in the Dove Mountain area is an understatement. St. Mark's, on Magee, is not just a location, it's a community that has shown God's love in multiple ways. Now we get to expand that blessing.

*Kim Ogle, Site Director*

## Special Annual Conference: Held September 14, 2019

The Desert Southwest Conference held a special one-day Annual Conference meeting on Saturday, Sept. 14, at Gold Canyon UMC.



Along with pastors Sharon Ragland and Stuart Salvatierra, St. Mark's was represented by lay delegates Kelly Deyoe, Casey Compennolle, Patricia Kittrell, and Robert Kittrell. Alex Karsten was a youth delegate from the South District.

Others attending from St. Mark's were Deaconesses Marjie Hrabe and Martha Lundgren, Alberta Farnsworth (UMW), Kayla Flannery (Conference Missions), and observers Kim Ogle, David Farnsworth and Mark Hrabe.

The purpose of the special Annual Conference was to

## Thanksgiving Day Feast!

If you don't have plans for Thanksgiving and especially don't want to cook, come join us for our annual Thanksgiving Day Potluck (Thursday, Nov. 28), beginning at noon in the Fellowship Hall.



We will provide the turkeys and drinks. Everyone attending will have the opportunity to bring a dish to contribute to our St. Mark's **family Thanksgiving feast!** If you are interested, please call the church office (297-2062)

and give your name, phone number, email, and number of people attending. Let us know if you need gluten and/or dairy-free options. Also, let us know if you are interested in helping with cleanup. Starting in November, watch for a Thanksgiving Potluck registration form in the bulletin. Registration deadline is Nov. 21. Families are welcome, come join the fun!

## Where Help Brings Hope!



Tom McKinney, the CEO of Interfaith Community Services, will speak at the 9:45 a.m. worship service this Sunday, Sept. 29. St. Mark's was one of the founding churches of ICS in 1985. Its purpose is serving the needs of the disadvantaged.

Annually, we support ICS with our church's Missions budget. ICS began with a food bank and emergency financial assistance. Over the years, its staff and volunteers have developed an impressive array of programs including mobile meals, health screening, eldercare, rides, job resources, and retraining women seeking to improve their educational and job opportunities. Mr. McKinney will focus on volunteer opportunities and how you can get involved at ICS – Where Help Brings Hope!

consider legislation left over from the regular Annual Conference meeting in June and new legislation that might be sent to next year's 2020 General Conference. On 9/14/19, besides times of worship and brief reports, the conference considered and passed nine resolutions. To read about the legislation passed at the special Conference on 9/14, go to [dscumc.org/ac](http://dscumc.org/ac), click on "special session info" and then on "special session proceedings." If you have any questions, please contact St. Mark's ([info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org)).

*Sharon Ragland*



# WASS UP?

September 25, 2019

Volume 20, Issue 18



## UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

**September 29, 2019—**

**1:30 to 4:00**

**Youth Leadership Team**

4:00 to 6:00

Pretzel Prayers



**October 6, 2019—**

4:00 to 6:00

Field Day

Bring a Friend! Everyone needs a permission slip.

**October 12, 2019—**

Help unload **PUMPKINS!**



Greetings Preteen Families,  
That first month of school flew by! It's hard to believe it is already Fall. It won't be long before the Youth are selling their pumpkins and costumes and candy are on everyone's mind. Join us on Sundays from 4:00 to 6:00 each week!

Blessings,  
Julie

**September 29th-**

Cooking without really cooking. Yummy!

**October 6th-**

Kids Yoga Fun

**October 13th-**

Movie Night at church. Bring a pillow or blanket to watch a Halloween movie. There will be **POPCORN!**

Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf

## Confirmation Reminder

The Confirmands will have the opportunity to attend a Jewish Shabbat service on October 25th. You'll meet Rabbi Eisen at Congregation Anshei Israel. Dress nicely. NO T-shirts or shorts.

Meet at the Wesley House at 4:00 p.m. Following the service, we will stop for dinner together. Bring money for dinner.

Contact Rachel— [rachel@umcstmarks.org](mailto:rachel@umcstmarks.org)



## Birthdays This Month

10/06 Kirk Jacobson\*  
10/12 Ken Martin\*\*  
10/18 Mariana Morales  
10/19 Vaughan Laos  
10/23 Ashley Drake  
10/27 Caroline McComb  
10/30 Mackenzie Kester  
\*Sunday School Teacher  
\*\*Faith Coach

Watch your e-mail and Facebook for our pumpkin patch sign up!!



## Our High School Discussion Study Needs a New Name

On the second and fourth Sundays, our High School students leave the church 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. It frequently involves Starbucks.

Our discussions have been great. The time together is very unique. Actually, everything about it is wonderful, except the name. Send suggestions to [kim@umcstmarks.org](mailto:kim@umcstmarks.org).

FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

## 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.

**BONUS:** This is a great thing to put on school applications!

# Required Minimum Distributions on Individual Retirement Accounts

**REMINDER: Deadline December 31, 2019**

With the last quarter of 2019 fast approaching, the Finance Committee wanted to provide a reminder of the critical deadline, Dec. 31, 2019, for many with traditional Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, and have a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA), this deadline is especially important because of the 50% federal penalty tax that applies to the amount that should have been withdrawn (but was NOT) from your IRA—the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)—by the deadline. So, if you haven't already made full-year 2019 RMD or Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) arrangements, now is the time to contact your IRA plan administrator/financial advisor to ensure the transactions can be completed before the year-end rush. QCDs count toward your total annual RMD!

As an additional reminder, QCDs must be sent directly from the IRA plan administrator/financial institution to the charity recipient. To allow the charity to follow your wishes, it's always helpful to designate the purpose of your gift. QCDs directed to St. Mark's can be used to fulfill

a Stewardship Campaign commitment, contribute to the upcoming Capital Campaign Kitchen Remodel Project, or provide a gift to honor or memorialize a loved one. Using your QCD is a wonderful way to share God's blessings with others, or see your gift achieve something special within our church campus or community.

A summary has been prepared from expert sources that fully explains RMDs and QCDs. RMDs often present a financial challenge, as these distributions can substantially add to total taxable income. But tax-savvy individuals can realize benefits and potentially mitigate some of the adverse impact.

To learn more on this subject, read the article posted on our website at [www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org), select RESOURCES from the main menu, then **QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS**.

**Note:** Inherited IRAs and Roth IRAs have different rules, so it's important to contact a tax advisor for the requirements on your IRA.

*Lezley Barth*  
Finance Chairperson

## 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 and family*

*Donald Chester*

*Shelley Coltrin*

*Deb Cushman*

*Judy Drescher*

*April DuBoce*

*Marge and Darrel Frazer*

*Keith and Mary Ann Glazier*

*Jim and Mary Sanders*

*Carol Underwood*

*Jackie Vickers*

*Dave and Jan Webster*

*Judy Wickham*

*Lindsay Williams*

Pastor Tammy Hallam's (former associate pastor at St. Mark's) daughter, **Megan Krzmarzick** is undergoing more cancer treatment. St. Mark's people may ask how they can send her cards, gift cards or gifts. Megan's address is: Megan Krzmarzick c/o Randi Wolfe, 3764 NE Bryce St., Portland, OR 97212.

## 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

**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



# Calendar Notes

## Sunday, Sept. 29

Fifth Sunday Worship  
Blood Drive - Fellowship Hall  
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

## Monday, Sept. 30

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

## Tuesday, October 1

11:30 a.m. Over 50s Lunch (off campus)

## Wednesday, October 2

7:30 a.m. Marksmen (off campus)  
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, October 3

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

## Friday, October 4

4:00 p.m. Drive-through Spaghetti Dinner

## Sunday, October 6

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
\*9:45 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. Dove Mountain Worship (soft launch)  
11:15 a.m. The Gathering, Sanctuary  
3:00 p.m. Dust Devils Concert, West Patio  
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 livestreamed.*



## 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.

\*Livestreamed at

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

### Soul Station

Wednesday Night:

Dinner - 5:45 p.m.

Music/Programs

6:15-7:15 p.m.

## New Welcome Center Exhibit



Be sure and stop by the Welcome Center between Oct. 7 and Nov. 11 to see the latest art exhibit, VOICES. Sponsored by our Missions Committee and Community Food Bank (CFB), the VOICES display documents the everyday hardships, triumphs, and inspirations of people in our community—clients, volunteers, donors, staff and community partners. These are the stories of the people at the Community Food Bank—stories of hunger and hope, of strength and resilience, and of courage and compassion.

The VOICES display is a great reminder of how the Community Food Bank helps satisfy and feed many families in the community by providing nutritious food, plus more with the double-up SNAP program. Not only does the food bank allow people to grow fresh food in their own backyard, it provides them with easy access to obtaining those foods. The CFB has changed many of the volunteer's perspectives of their community by the lives they change every day.

Through your generous donations to St. Mark's Missions Committee, we can continue to support these community causes that are so desperately needed in Tucson!

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

### Unusual Things

Tuesday, September 24, 2019. Since late last night rain has been falling on and off at our house, sometimes with thunder and lightning. While this is not rare in the desert, it's pretty unusual especially in this year's dry monsoon season. Our doors and windows are open, savoring this unusual sound and smell. Love it!

What about other unusual things? For the first two Sundays in October, as part of ***What the Bible Really Says About...***, the messages will be about two unusual things in the Bible, ***Long Lives***(Oct. 6) and ***Giants***(Oct. 13). On October 6, we'll celebrate World Communion Sunday. It's unusual for churches around the world to celebrate Holy Communion on the same day, a sign of our joint commitment to Christ's love.

It's unusual in these times to be a Christian deeply committed to following the ways of Jesus, to grow in our faith and love of God AND to care for the poor, the outcast, the sick and hurting. Jesus spent time with these folks, healing and teaching, and sometimes these folks are us. Sometimes these are people we are deeply committed to working alongside through our ministries with Nash Neighbors, Interfaith Community Services, Primavera, the Inn, Animal Ministries and so many more. St. Mark's level of commitment to these and other ministries is unusual today.

It's unusual to be a church that goes beyond itself in order to reach new people with the love of Christ. Most churches and many Christians are most concerned with being sure they have more than they need. Yet, on October 20, St. Mark's will launch our second site for worship, St. Mark's Dove Mountain, meeting in the C-STEM Dove Mountain School. The call of God for this new site has been strong and we are responding. Hold this in prayer, participate as you can, and continue to be involved at our main site.

Jesus was unusual, a teacher, leader, prophet, Savior, and friend who always called people back to the main commandment, to *"love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."* This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: *'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:36-40)

At St. Mark's, we may be pretty unusual too. We're strong and growing, trying new things, and deeply committed to "changing the world through Christ by caring for all people". No matter what happens around us, we will be unusual for Christ, sharing his love in action in the world.

*Blessings, Sharon*