

Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

St. Mark's
United Methodist

From Thanksgiving To Advent...

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever. —Psalm 107:1*

Did you know that some form of “O give thanks to the Lord” appears over 30 times in the Bible? As God’s beloved created people we are meant to give thanks to God for all that God has done and is doing for us. Even in tumultuous and uncertain times, we use our hearts, hands, and voices to give thanks to God.

In the United States, we have a built-in time of thanksgiving this time of year – Thanksgiving Day. To help us give thanks to God we worship together:

Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019 – “Deep, Deep Love”. We look at how the deep, deep love of God calls us to that love for one another and all creation.

Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019 – Thanksgiving Eve worship in the Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m. An opportunity to praise and thank God through song and word, and a chance to receive Holy Communion. Come and worship!

Advent begins Sunday, Dec. 1st!

Advent is the four weeks before Christmas, a time to prepare our hearts and lives to receive the love and life of Jesus again this Christmas. The four Sundays of Advent are Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22. When I asked you last year what you most wanted to know about “*what the Bible really says*” several of you asked about heaven, hell, and the end of time. Because Advent is historically a time when churches heard Scriptures about Christ coming again, our worship theme of “Heaven, Hell and the End of Time.” People have

lots of questions about heaven, hell, the end of earth, and the return of Jesus. We’ll tackle these weighty subjects during Advent, 2019!



Sunday, Dec. 1

What Does the Bible Say About Heaven and Hell?

Sunday, Dec. 8

What Does the Bible Say About the End of This World?

Sunday, Dec. 15

Revelation Revealed...Hope and Encouragement

Sunday, Dec. 22

Christ Coming Again...

At St. Mark’s, there are lots of opportunities during Advent to learn, celebrate, and grow. Look inside for a list of Advent studies. **The Best Christmas Pageant Eve** performance is Friday night, Dec. 6, at 7:00 p.m. Our Annual **Community Carol Sing** is Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3:00 p.m.

Enter into Advent to prepare your heart for Christ’s coming at Christmas!

Rev. Sharon Ragland



Advent Workshop is Coming—Sunday, Dec. 8!

We will gather in Fellowship Hall for four mission projects, three craft projects, take home prayer activities, a photo booth, cookies, and more! Come and be filled with Christmas spirit and enjoy being with the church family. We will see you there right after worship!



St. Mark's Thanksgiving Offering

This Thanksgiving, we have the chance to give to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for hygiene kits and to Centers for Hope in Syria, sponsored by Open Doors USA, which is assisting Christians in desperate situations. Our Missions Committee recommended that the Thanksgiving offering be divided equally between these, and our October 21 Church Conference gave approval.

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

The UMCOR portion of the Thanksgiving offering will be designated for 300 hygiene kits that will be assembled at our Advent workshop Sunday, Dec. 8. Over the past year, UMCOR has provided relief for a record number of victims of natural disasters. UMCOR is always one of the first relief agencies on the scene of disasters in the United States and around the world and one of the last to leave. UMCOR has provided relief for tornado, flood and hurricane victims in the U.S. and offered food, shelter and hygiene kits to refugees leaving Syria, Iraq and Africa. We want to assist UMCOR by replenishing its supply of hygiene kits.

Centers for Hope

Half of the Thanksgiving Offering for 2019 will be given to Centers for Hope in Syria, as part of Open Doors USA, to assist Christians in rebuilding their churches, homes

and lives in areas decimated by ISIS. The completed Centers play a vital role in the revival spreading throughout the region. They serve as an extended arm of the church, seeking to help Christians through emergency aid, medical care, trauma counseling, educational support, vocational training and Biblical discipleship. As the communities impacted by the ISIS invasion begin to rebuild, the Centers are serving as outposts of faith for Christians and unbelievers alike – and God is using them to draw those in need into a relationship with Him. A pastor of a church in Syria notes that “People are turning to Christ in significant numbers. Revival means new converts, new churches, new leadership and baptizing of new believers.” Like many other Christian churches and organizations around the world, the Centers for Hope are helping the neediest people. Some locations are distributing food and warm clothing since many of these families lost their primary breadwinner in the war, leaving widows, elderly and children behind. At the beginning of 2019, three new Centers were underway in Syria and another six were under review for approval. At most, the number of current Centers represents about 25% of the number envisioned, so your generous donations this Thanksgiving will aid greatly in this Open Doors effort.

To give use the Thanksgiving envelope, or write “Thanksgiving” on the memo line of your check. You may mail it or bring it to worship any Sunday, or on Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 27, when we’ll gather for worship with communion at 6:30 p.m. You can also give electronically by visiting umcstmarks.org and click GIVING. Happy Thanksgiving and thanks be to God for His countless blessings!

The Christmas Spirit

How many times have you heard the following...



“Halloween just ended, and they already have the Christmas decorations up at stores!”

“Christmas has become all about spending money.”

“I’m stressed out about seeing my family.”

“I can’t enjoy the Christmas season anymore because it’s so rush, rush, rush.”

Come and join us as we celebrate the season in a way that will lift your spirits and remind you of God’s love for you.

Behold! Our Advent study this year is grounded in Scripture and prayer. What better way to stay centered during the holidays? We are offering ten classes this year—see details on page 3.



The fun begins on **Friday, Dec. 6, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary.

Make plans to come and experience the joy of Christmas! Enjoy the performance with the entire family and stay for a cookie reception after the play!

Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

Advent Studies Begin...

The main Advent study this year is **BEHOLD! Cultivating Attentiveness in the Season of Advent** written by Pamela Hawkins. Enter Advent this year with an attitude of curious expectancy and trustful anticipation. Linger for a while, and pay close attention to the meaning of the season. As you focus on a single word each week, you will pray the beautiful prayers and hymn texts, and try various forms of prayer. Group Study schedule:

SUNDAY

Magee Campus

Start date is Dec. 1 for these 5 studies
8:30 a.m. Advent Reflection Group
will follow separate study led by
Linda Walker

9:45 a.m. Family/Life Sharing

Terry Majewski and Rick Farnsworth

9:45 a.m. Faithful Friends, Margaret Synhorst

11:00 a.m. Common Grounds, Rachel Mosher

11:00 a.m. Study Group

Margaret Synhorst & Judy Boroto

MONDAY

Off Campus — both these studies begin Dec. 2
10:00 a.m., Mountain View Retirement Center
Marge Sogn

7:00 p.m., Saddlebrooke Study Group

Marge and Bob Sogn

WEDNESDAY

Magee Campus

Start date is Nov. 27

10:00 a.m., Wednesday Study Group, Marcia Rostad

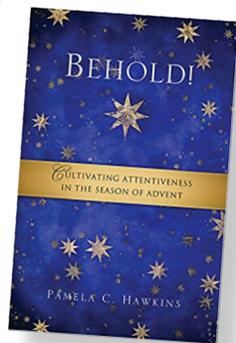
SATURDAY

Dove Mountain (Nov. 23, Dec. 7, 14, 21 - no class 11/30)

10:00 a.m., Savaya Coffee Market

Pastor Evy

You can register at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board on Sundays or online. Books will be available to buy on Sunday, Nov. 24, for \$10. Or, download one for your Kindle or Nook. Scholarships are available for those who need them.



Painting The Stars Study Ends With Stargazing Party

This seven-week course looked at the juncture of faith and science based on the belief that these two things are not mutually exclusive. Discussion centered on a DVD-based curriculum that featured many theologians, philosophers, and scientists. It led us from Creation to the Christ and points beyond. The last class culminated with the opportunity to do some stargazing.

Thanks to the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association, we were able to have two volunteers who brought their telescopes so we could view the skies. Despite some competition from clouds, the views of the Moon, Jupiter, Saturn, and various other star clusters, and dying stars, were beautiful. It was interesting to be able to view through the computer screen of one telescope as well as through the eyepiece of another telescope. This course was led by Art Ragland and Rev. Roger Pierce.



Tihan Christmas Tree

This is the 12th year St. Mark's is helping to make Christmas brighter for Tucson children affected by HIV/AIDS. Nov. 24, will be the last Sunday you may choose a paper ornament for a boy or girl from the Christmas tree in the courtyard. Don't forget to pick up a flyer with all the gift ideas. Please take an ornament and purchase a toy, a fun item, or a gift card and return your donation to the decorated TIHAN box by December 1st. This is a fun mission project and every year the congregation gives generously to put lots of smiles on many young faces. Thanks for your participation!



Reminder!

The church office
will be closed
Thursday and Friday
(11/28 and 11/29)
in observance of the
Thanksgiving holiday.



The 2020 Stewardship Campaign

At St. Mark's we model stewardship through our actions, attitudes, service, and giving. The 2020 Stewardship Campaign, **What the Bible Says About Love**, coincided with the sermon series which began and ended with scriptures and messages about the deep and wide love of God for us, which makes it possible for us to love and live fully. St. Mark's continues to grow and share the love of Christ in countless ways.



November 17, was Commitment Sunday and the Finance Committee is grateful for the pledges received. Each pledge collected makes a difference in the budgeting process, ensuring vital ministries continue and grow to meet our changing needs.

If you have not had a chance to turn in a pledge card, it is never too late. Extra pledge cards can be found in the pew backs, in the entrance of the sanctuary, and in the front office. They can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or brought to the church office at any time. Or if you prefer, you may make a pledge and give online at umcstmarks.org (GIVING) or contact Ruth Kester in our church office (520-297-2062) for assistance. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to Christ and our church.



Please join us for cake between services on Sunday, Nov. 24, as we express our gratitude.
The Finance Committee

Time for Cookies, Cookies, Cookies!

Time to bake and freeze, my friends. During a 10 day period in early December we will celebrate with The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, the Advent Workshop, two St. Mark's Early Childhood Center Christmas programs, and the Community Carol Sing. Whew, it's going to be awesome, but we need lots of cookies for those events. And nothing is as wonderful as homemade Christmas cookies!

Bring cookies to the church office in a disposable container marked "Christmas Cookies" anytime during the week of December 2-6. Or, on Sunday, December 1, leave your cookies on the kitchen counter and be sure to label them! Thank you so much for making this year's Christmas celebrations more festive than ever!



St. Mark's Quilters

The St. Mark's Quilters meet on Thursday mornings to plan patterns, cut fabric and make quilts, as well as to enjoy conversation while they work. Quilts we make are donated to different services in the Tucson area. This year we donated **423 quilts** to Tucson Dialysis centers, CPS, and the INN Project.



Your donations of fabrics and money have enabled us to help so many people! We would like to help others in our community also and welcome your suggestions.

Gail Blevins

Conference-wide Mission Trip Planned for Feb. 2020



In March 2019, 70 participants from St. Mark's (Tucson), North Scottsdale, Christ Community (Avondale), Lakeview (Sun City), Willowbrook (Sun City), Gilbert First, Spirit of Hope (Peoria), Red Mountain (Mesa), Gold Canyon, Gila Mountain (Yuma), and New Song (Surprise) UMCs spent a busy, engaging, challenging, and rewarding weekend in Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point), Mexico, building houses. Ages in the group ranged from 6 to 90! Three work groups, each with excellent leaders, worked with three families on the construction of their homes.

Several people who participated have asked for another trip, and people who missed the 2019 trip have a chance to enjoy the experience for the first time.

You are invited to join with brothers and sisters in Christ in the Second Conference-Wide three-day home build in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico on Feb. 28-March 2, 2020. Southbound travel will be on Friday, Feb. 28, 2020. We'll work on houses on Saturday and Sunday, ending at noon on Monday, March 2, 2020.

For more information and to download a brochure visit the conference website at <https://dscumc.org/2019/09/2020-conference-wide-3-day-mission-trip-to-puerto-penasco-mexico/>

*Mike and Lorraine Eyer
DSC UMVIM Coordinators*

Your Worship Committee Flower Fund in Action

Over the last two years, money from the Worship Committee's Flower Fund has been set aside for the purchase of desperately needed commercial grade laundry equipment for the The INN. This organization assists documented guests as they prepare to travel through the U.S. to connect with their sponsors in other parts of the country.

Recently, the space provided to The INN, in the basement at First UMC, has been renovated with new electrical and plumbing and the new Speed Queen washer and dryer that was purchased with the WC Flower fund money was installed at The INN. This new purchase allows volunteers at The INN to provide clean linens for guests and allows those traveling to leave with clean clothes. This is the epitome of hospitality.



The WC Flower Fund money is a result of leftover money from the sanctuary Christmas and Easter flower donation program. The money accumulates in the Flower Fund, and as a committee, we want to know exactly how the extra funds are spent, not just on monetary donations but on actual items to help charitable organizations. We vote to purchase these needed items for different charities in Tucson. We try not to duplicate charitable areas that St. Mark's Missions Committee covers.

In the past, other purchases from the Flower Fund have included: new sinks for the youth bathroom at Our Family Services; a new TV and new wood bed sets at Marshall Home for Men; bed frames, headboards, and mattresses so doctors can sleep over while on duty at the church sponsored medical campus at Aqua Prieta; bus passes for Rally Point, a veteran's group; and double children's strollers for Emerge the Center Against Domestic Abuse.

Surfing The Radio Dial with Desert Chameleon Brass Ensemble



The Musical Musings concert series is excited to present the band Desert Chameleon featuring St. Mark's own Todd Martin. The festivities will be on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Desert Chameleon is a 22+ member all volunteer community band founded in 2016 by Martin. It plays a wide variety of genres and call itself a "chameleon" for having the ability to "change colors" and adapt to nearly any theme or setting.

Come and enjoy a multi-media show featuring a little bit of everything from Big Band Swing, 70's horn bands, happy songs, some soul, Latin flavored tunes and just about everything in-between. You'll hear some contemporary pop, mid-century bop, all guaranteed to make you hop. They've prepared a very special show for Musical Musings at St. Mark's that will include a surprise finale that you surely won't want to miss.

Remember, our Musical Musings concerts are always free and open to the community. This is an excellent opportunity to bring family, friends, and neighbors to St. Mark's campus for an afternoon of fun and lively entertainment.



Market On the Move - is Back!

Saturday, December 7, 8-10:30 a.m., St. Mark's South Parking Lot



What a great bargain—60 lbs. of fresh produce for \$10! Pick up a selection of fresh, surplus produce to take home and share with family or neighbors. Come early and remember to bring your own bags, baskets, or wagon for your produce. Also, volunteers are needed for distributing produce. Look for the sign-up sheet posted on the Missions bulletin board in the courtyard on Sunday morning. Or, you may contact Lenna (*see directory*) to help or for more information.

WASS UP?

November 20, 2019

Volume 20, Issue 22



UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

November 24, 2019—

4:00-6:00

Middle School— bowling at Bedroxx!

Friends are welcome

\$5, Scholarships are available

High School— Off Campus

Discussion Group

December 1, 2019—

No Youth, Happy Thanksgiving!

December 8, 2019—

4:00-6:00

Middle School- Mission Night!

Help us make a difference and

take Christ out into the world!

High School— Off Campus

Discussion Group

Greetings Preteen Families,

Wow this year is really flying by! This is such an amazing time of year. I encourage you all to really slow things down as we head into the holidays and give thanks for all of the many Blessings God has given us. At Preteen we will be talking about showing gratitude towards others and how we can share God's love through service. Hope to see you at Preteen.

Blessings,
Julie

November 24th-

4:00-6:00

Thanksgiving and
Gratitude the Charlie
Brown way

December 1st-

No PreTeen, Thanksgiving!

Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf

Bowling at Bedroxx!

Hey Middle School students! November 24th will be such an amazingly fun day! Meet at the Wesley House at 4:00 and we will head over to Bedroxx for some bowling fun. Only \$5. and of course scholarships are available! Friends are always welcome. with a permission slip!

Sierra Service Project 2020!

We have received our 2020 site! Students in grades 8-12 this year, mark your calendars. We will be going to Lake County, CA on week 4 (July 12-19) this year!

We will leave a few days before this for a fun trip.

Keep checking back for details. Remember, a \$40 deposit will hold your spot!

Confirmation News

On December 14, Confirmation will be serving dinner to the men at Primavera. We will also be providing them with care packages the Youth packed at our November Mission Sunday.

St. Mark's is very focused on Mission, and so are our youth! This is an important part of our Confirmation class, and I hope you can all make it.

Please meet at the church at 3:30, ready to cook and serve!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12-03 Chase Laos
12-05 Addison DaDeppo
12-11 Lisa DaDeppo*
12-14 Alex Carsten
12-19 Landon Tate
12-26 Isabel Richards

* Sunday School teacher

High School Discussion

On the second and fourth Sundays of each month, our High School group goes off campus for some in-depth discussion. If you haven't checked it out yet, you really should!

But also...we really need a name!! Help! Tell Kim or Rachel your amazing idea for our fun group, and maybe you will see it in the next edition of Wass Up!

Messenger Publication Changes For 2020

Currently the St. Mark's church newsletter, the **Messenger** is published every other week and is delivered to our church family and other subscribers by U.S. mail or via email. Along with the Messenger, we communicate with our congregation through the Pastor's Weekly Message, bulletin announcements and inserts, and Facebook posts. Our website (umcstmarks.org) is also a primary way that we give our congregation and other readers up-to-date information.

One of St. Mark's "Identified Priorities" is to routinely examine our internal systems and structures and identify ways we can consolidate or streamline our systems and practices. Part of this is identifying ways to keep up-to-date and save time and money, being good stewards of our resources.

You may recall that in September, 2019, we began to use a bulletin for worship that includes the orders of worship for all three Sunday morning services as well as announcements. Now we use the same bulletin at all three worship services, which has saved time and money in publication, staff time, and paper costs. This is an example of streamlining without compromising the outcome or effectiveness.

Beginning in January, 2020, the number of **Messengers** produced each year will go from 24 to 15. **Messengers** will be published around the first Wednesday of the month. Additionally during peak seasons like Lent/Easter, back-to-school and Advent/Christmas, an additional issue will be published to communicate about activities, Adult Spiritual Growth opportunities, stewardship campaign

info, and other seasonal programs. The Messenger issues published in 2020 will include additional page(s) to give full information about our ministries.

This new schedule will streamline staff responsibilities and conserve resources while still providing excellent and timely information through the **Messenger** and in other ways. The Pastor's Weekly Message, bulletin announcements and inserts, Facebook messages, and our website will keep you informed and engaged.



The 2020 Messenger schedule is available on the website. Select Newsletter under the RESOURCES TAB, next select Deadlines & Archived Newsletters to print a PDF of the 2020 Messenger Deadlines Schedule. Online readers use this [link](#).

The first issue publishes on January 8, 2020 (due to the holiday schedule) and the deadline to submit information is January 2, 2020. Submit information for the **Messenger** to messenger@umcstmarks.org.

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.

*Jared Bowman and family
Donald Chester
Deb Cushman
Judy Drescher
April DuBoce*

*Marge and Darrel Frazer
Keith and Mary Ann Glazier
Keith Johnson
Jim and Mary Sanders
Carol Underwood*

*Jackie Vickers
Judy Wickham
Lindsay Williams*

CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy and prayers are with Kendra and Matt Ritchey and their family on the tragic death of Kendra's sister and niece in New York City last week. Please lift up earnest prayers for healing and comfort for the entire family.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Ruth Machtley and family, as Ruth's Mother passed away in Union Town, PA. Also, prayers for safe travels.

Calendar Notes

Friday, November 22

9:30 a.m. Open Minds Book Discussion, Library

Saturday, November 23

10:00 a.m. Advent Study, Savaya Coffee, Dove Mtn.

Sunday, November 24

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary

*9:45 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Dove Mountain Worship

11:15 a.m. The Gathering, Sanctuary

3:00 p.m. Desert Chameleon Brass Ensemble, Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall

4:00 p.m. PreTeens, Rm. 8/9

4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Wesles House

Monday, November 25

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

4:00 p.m. Grief Support, Counselor's Office

Tuesday, November 26

6:00 p.m. Boycott movie, Fellowship Hall

**This service is livestreamed.*

Wednesday, November 27

Noon BULLETIN DEADLINE

Noon MESSENGER DEADLINE (due to holiday)

5:45 p.m. Soul Station Dinner, Fellowship Hall

6:15 p.m. Common Grounds, Library

6:20 p.m. Soul Station program

Thursday, November 28

Church Office is closed

Noon Thanksgiving Feast, Fellowship Hall

Friday, November 29

Church Office is closed

Sunday, December 1

First Sunday of Advent

7:00 a.m. Blood Drive

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary

*9:45 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Dove Mountain Worship

11:15 a.m. The Gathering, Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall

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

4:00 p.m. NO Youth Group, Wesley House



St. Mark's UMC
1431 W. Magee Road
Tucson, AZ 85704
(520) 297-2062

Email:

info@umcstmarks.org

Website:

www.umcstmarks.org

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Sharon Ragland

Associate Pastors:

Stuart Salvatierra

Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald

Wednesday Worship

Soul Station

Dinner - 5:45 p.m.

Music/Programs

6:15-7:15 p.m.

Sunday Worship

Magee Rd.

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

*Livestreamed

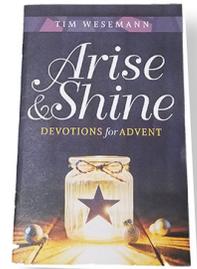
DOVE MOUNTAIN

Moore Rd.

10:00 a.m.

Advent Devotionals

This year, our Advent devotional is titled **Arise & Shine Devotions for Advent**. The booklet contains daily reflections by Tim Wesemann that "highlight a different aspect of the rising, reflected, healing, and eternal qualities of Christ's light and how these facets enlighten our lives and help us to glow with His grace all season long." A limited supply of booklets is available on the narthex table. To help with shipping, a \$1.00 donation is suggested.



United Methodist Women Craft & Bake Sale

Holiday Gifts and Treats



Don't miss the annual Craft and Bake Sale sponsored by St. Mark's UMW. Stop by the church Library on Sunday, Dec. 1 between services to do a little Christmas shopping and pick up some home baked goodies. Money from the fundraiser supports Mission projects.

Address Service Requested

Reflections

Early Monday mornings I meet for prayer with a small group, a lectio divina group. Each week we listen closely to a small portion of Scripture, praying our way into it, hearing what God says to us and what God invites us to do from that hearing. This week the passage began:

“O Lord, our sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” –Psalm 8:1

We began to talk about the words “sovereign” and “majestic”, about God being like a powerful leader and the creator of beauty and grand things.

Psalm 8 goes on to say: “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?” Our reflections turned to the ways that the “fingers of God” are close, so near to us in every aspect of our lives, creating, guiding, and caring for us.

As I went through the day after the lectio group, Psalm 8 and our conversation kept coming back to me. I realized my heart was full of thanksgiving. I thought of the grand ways God is present at our church – in stunning altars, beautiful anthems, great gatherings of our people for worship, the sounds of large groups of children at the Early Childhood Center, and the gift of our buildings and

campus. Yes, God is in all of those....how majestic is your name!

Throughout the day my heart was grateful for each staff person. Each one does ministry so that we all can know Jesus’ love better – answering phones and greeting people, wisely handling funds, preparing bulletins, developing the Messenger and materials for outreach, working on programs and ministries and so much more. Each one plays an important part.

In a meeting with two leaders I realized how blessed we are by their insights and willingness to serve our church, working through things when they’re easy and when they’re not. My appreciation for them and all our leaders runs deep.

The fingers of God extend into all the corners and places of our church. We are abundantly and richly blessed by resources and talents and the willingness of people to use and share them. All of this is so God’s love can be more fully known in our church and beyond.

So God is working among us in majestic ways and in tiny fingers that touch each one of us with God’s love, hope and joy. And I am grateful.

Blessings, Sharon