

# Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

Volume 59, Number 21

November 6, 2019

St. Mark's  
United Methodist

## Welcome, Kevin Conlin!

Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to invite you to welcome Kevin Conlin as our new part-time Technology Coordinator, as of Oct. 7, 2019.



Kevin's specific responsibilities are to provide oversight for the video and audio technology in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and the second site at St. Mark's Dove Mountain. He will work closely with our dedicated volunteers and Technology Committee to bring the best possible audio and video technology to our worship and to our livestream. Kevin will be working 10-15 hours per week and is contracted for his work through Nesco Resources, which helps to place people in technology positions. His hours will vary depending on the needs of the position.

Kevin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree from the University of Nevada, Reno, and has worked with churches as a musician and as an audio engineer. He enjoys working with people and helping volunteers to be successful in their work. We are delighted to welcome Kevin to our staff as part-time Technology Coordinator.

Staff Parish Relations Committee

## ADVENT

*the coming of our Savior!*

**Advent begins December 1!**

Our Advent Workshop is Sunday, Dec. 8. We will gather in Fellowship Hall between services (9:00 – 1:00 p.m.) for great all-church activities including 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!

## 2020 Stewardship Campaign

The words of our mission statement, *"Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people."* are simple, but have great impact. The St. Mark's community is an amazing place because we earnestly strive to live out this mission statement. We put our faith into action and find ways to care that are almost too numerous to count. As a part of our 2020 Stewardship Campaign, I have been reflecting on the campaign's central Scripture (1st Thessalonians 3:12) ***"May the Lord make you increase and overflow in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you."*** I keep reading these words of Paul and see the numerous ways that they connect to our mission statement. It is clear that God is always increasing the love that flows through this community. We get to show God's love through the love that is first shared with us. It is our privilege of making investments of love in each other and in the world.

One of the places where I have been most touched by this investment of love has been through the work that was done on our Adult Mission Trip to Puerto Penasco. Over the course of several days, we helped build a home for a family that had previously been living in a small camper. Those on the trip had the honor of representing St. Mark's, but we also know that our efforts would not have been able to happen without the love and support of our St. Mark's community. The result of the trip, a family having a home, was only possible because of the support of our entire church. I know that God was pleased with the love that we were able to share because of the love that God shared with us. No doubt, the love that we invested into this family will help them to share this same love with those around them. What an honor! Paul was writing to the Thessalonians but he may as well have been writing to us. ***God wants us to overflow in love for others, as God overflows in love for us!***

We are the Body of Christ and right now we are planning how we will continue overflowing in love. Through the gifts and generosity of everyone we will be able to share more of God's love in the world. Please join in this by making your pledge to support the ministries of this church.

Our Stewardship Commitment Sunday is Nov. 17. We will be celebrating our commitments in worship and lifting them up to God! You can place your commitment card in the offering plate, mail it, or drop it by the church office. If you prefer, you may make your pledge online at [umcstmarks.org](http://umcstmarks.org) (GIVING) or contact Ruth Kester (520-297-2062) for assistance. Thank you for your support and continued generosity to St. Mark's!

Pastor Stuart



## Manhattan Dolls Concert

Join us in the sanctuary at **3:00 p.m. this Sunday, Nov. 10**, to celebrate Veterans Day with The Manhattan Dolls. St. Mark's Musical Musings is sponsoring the concert featuring this singing trio. The program is free and open to the community.



Hop aboard the "Chattanooga Choo Choo" and join The Manhattan Dolls on a "Sentimental Journey" through the great music of the '30s and '40s. Sit back and enjoy these timeless classics! Sentimental Journey blends beautiful ballads with your favorite toe-tapping tunes, and of course, in classic USO fashion, takes some time to honor our brave men and women in the military. From boogie-woogie to the blues, the Sentimental Journey program celebrates the best the Great American Songbook has to offer. Bring your friends and neighbors to this delightful afternoon concert!

## the Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Mark your calendars now for **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!** The fun begins at 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary on Dec. 6. Save the date, you don't want to miss this special evening.

## TIHAN Christmas Tree

This is the 12th year that St. Mark's is helping to make Christmas brighter for Tucson children affected by HIV/AIDS. A Christmas tree with paper ornaments will be in the courtyard on Sunday, Nov. 17 and 24. Ornaments are marked with girl or boy and age group. Please take an ornament and purchase a toy or fun item or gift card and return to the Christmas decorated box in the courtyard on either **Sunday, Nov. 24 or Dec. 1**. There are informational fliers with gift ideas and due dates.

This is a fun mission project and every year the congregation of St. Mark's gives generously to put lots of smiles on many young faces. Thank you in advance for your participation!



## Cookies, Cookies, Cookies!



Time to bake and freeze, my friends. During a ten-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're going to need a lot of cookies for those events. We all know homemade Christmas cookies are wonderful, so please consider making a batch or three of cookies! Cookie collection will be the first week of December. The drop-off location and other details will be in the next **Messenger**.



## Sidewalk Sunday School

Again this year, the Missions Committee is asking our congregation to help underprivileged children with gifts and spreading the Christmas Story. Your continued generosity is certainly appreciated.

Sidewalk Sunday School (SSS) is a conference-wide project which provides holiday gifts to less fortunate children and young people and the opportunity to hear the Christmas Story. All our donations stay in Tucson and go to the SSS program at New Hope, UMC, (I-19 and Valencia). Pastor Augustine Jimenez and his wife, Mary, provide marvelous outreach to his congregation and the surrounding area. Their SSS program is open to all and they extend a special invitation to anyone at St. Mark's that would like to attend. The time and date will be shared as soon as the information is available. St. Mark's partners with the Green Valley, UMC, to ensure this outreach is successful.



Look for the Christmas tree in the courtyard between services on four consecutive Sundays, Nov. 24, Dec. 1, Dec. 8, and Dec. 15. The bags, tags, and directions will be there along with volunteers to answer questions, pass out bags and collect filled bags. Bags can be dropped off at the church office weekdays (8 a.m. – 4 p.m.). The final collection deadline is Friday, Dec. 20. You may choose the age group and gender for gifts you purchase. Teenagers will receive \$20 gift cards from either Walmart or Target.

All volunteers are welcome to assist with checking bags. We meet in Fellowship Hall on Friday, Dec. 20, 9:00—1:00 pm. This is always a fun morning! You will meet new people and there are always lots of doughnuts. (The only doughnuts I eat all year!) This is a great opportunity to participate in a "hands-on" mission project while doing a good deed for others. Volunteers may contact Ellen Beene (see directory) or sign up on Sunday at the Missions bulletin board located in the courtyard. We know our very generous congregation will support Sidewalk Sunday School again this year and provide a memorable holiday experience for children.

Ellen Beene, Missions Committee

# Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

"Aging is a spiritual journey. To be on an intentional spiritual journey as we grow older is to be at peace with God. It means we have accepted the reality that we live our lives under the loving gaze of a mysterious God who is ever beyond us, deeply in love with us, and always with us."—Richard H. Gentzler Jr., *An Age of Opportunity*

**FAMILY LIFE/SHARING** - Sundays, 9:45 a.m., Rm 17  
Come join this group for the last three weeks of Tom Berlin's *Reckless Love: Jesus' Call to Love Our Neighbor*. In *Reckless Love*, you will consider your life, and learn how loving the people around you will completely renew your faith and give you a new experience of loving God. All are welcome, the class is led by Terry Majewski and Rick Farnsworth.

## Heroes Of The Faith Movie Series

Tuesday, Nov. 26, 6:00 p.m.

**Boycott**, starring Jeffrey Wright, Terrence Howard, and CCH Pounder. The story of black Americans who boycotted public buses during '50s civil rights movement under the leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr. The film, based on the book *Daybreak of Freedom* by Stewart Burns, tells the story of the 1955-1956 Montgomery Bus Boycott. It won a Peabody Award in 2001 "for refusing to allow history to slip into the past." As always, popcorn will be available. Bring your own beverage. Linda Walker will host.



## Thoughts on... *What Is the Bible?*

Thanks for teaching this class. The choice of book and the materials presented in class were appropriate for the six-week time frame. The class was just the tip of the iceberg and a good introduction as to how much there is to know about the Bible and I look forward to a time when I can take another class to further my Bible knowledge.

—Linda Longhofer

## Thoughts on... *The Fear of the Other*

I gained several insights from this class. The one that comes to mind first, and shocks me a little bit, is realizing how quick I am to judge people and categorize them into subgroups as "the other." I liked the idea that the key to overcoming our thoughts of a person as "the other" is about contact and education, and actual interaction with this person or persons. Being with those we consider "the other" makes us less likely to consider people as "the other."

—Kelly Deyoe

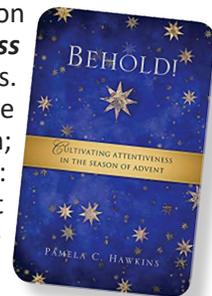
## November Open Minds Book Discussion

On Friday, Nov. 22, at 9:30 a.m. (We meet earlier due to Thanksgiving.) in the St. Mark's Library we'll discuss Richard Roper's novel, *How Not to Die Alone: It's never too late to start living*. Richard Roper was inspired by an article he read about people whose job it is to follow up after people die alone. It is his debut novel. To make it even more relevant, a retired mortician from the USA who lives here in Tucson will be on hand to answer questions. Next month our get-together will be Friday, Dec. 27. The book selection is a national bestseller, *I Will Always Write Back* by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda with Liz Welch. The subtitle is *How one letter changed two lives*.

## Advent Is Fast Approaching

Advent is a time of waiting, but is an ACTIVE waiting in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ-child. It's so much more than decorations, or presents, or parties. We also need to prepare our souls through acts of remembering; of meditating; of praying. Although we can do this by ourselves, it is much more meaningful if we are with a group of persons that seek the same thing—a closer relationship with God and one another. This is why we offer small group options to study Scripture during Advent.

There will be many opportunities for you to participate in Advent study this season. Our book selection this year is *Behold! Cultivating Attentiveness in the Season of Advent* by Pamela C. Hawkins. In this study, Hawkins has us examine the aspects of Expectancy; Preparation; Faith; Promise. She states in the introduction: "Behold is a word of weight, a word that carries itself differently for me than does the word see. If it is said with intent, urgency, or wonder, see can get my attention; but when I hear the word behold, my attention comes from a different place a deeper place, as though I am being invited to see by means of an inner vision."



## Advent Study Locations:

You may register at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board on Sunday, or online at [umcstmarks.org](http://umcstmarks.org) (CLASSES). Books will be available in the courtyard starting Sunday, Nov. 24, for \$10. You may also purchase the book online.

### Off Campus

#### Mountain View Retirement Village

Monday 10:30 a.m., led by Marge Sogn

#### Saddlebrooke

Monday 7:00 p.m., led by Bob/Marge Sogn

### Magee Campus

#### Wednesday Morning Study, 10:00 a.m.

led by Marcia Rostad

### Sunday mornings

Small Group, 8:30 a.m., led by Linda Walker

Family/Life Sharing, 9:45 a.m.,

led by Terry Majewski/Rick Farnsworth

Small Group, 9:45 a.m., led by Margaret Synhorst

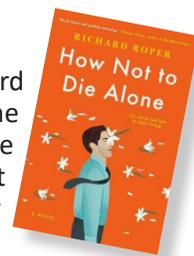
Small Group, 11:00 a.m.

led by Judy Boroto/Margaret Synhorst

### Dove Mountain

Savaya Coffee Market

Saturday, 10:00 a.m., led by Rv. Dr. EvyMcDonald



## 2019 Thanksgiving Offering

This year, as recommended by St. Mark's Missions Committee and approved at our Oct. 21 Church Conference, the offering will be split equally between **Centers for Hope and UMCOR**. A brief summary of each organization follows:

### United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

Money collected from the Thanksgiving offering will be used to purchase 300 hygiene kits. Kits will be assembled on **Sunday, Dec. 8, during the Advent Workshop**. UMCOR Hygiene Kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster.



UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters—be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. They provide relief, response and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own.

UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development. UMCOR responds to disasters in the United States and around the world by working with communities and local partners. When a disaster overwhelms a community's ability to recover on its own, UMCOR provides essential relief supplies and supports long-term rebuilding efforts. While UMCOR is not a first-response organization, it stands ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery until a "new normal" is established after a crisis. "Early in and last out" is a guiding principle of UMCOR.

### Centers of Hope

#### Hope and Assistance for Persecuted Christians in Syria.

Even though there has been significant fighting recently in the northwest boarder area of Syria, Christians are returning to their homes in other parts of Syria and they are finding renewed hope with the assistance of the Centers of Hope program operated by  **OpenDoors** Serving persecuted Christians worldwide Open Doors USA affiliated with the United Methodist Church. The Centers of Hope are places where local churches are building, maintaining, and strengthening relationships with local communities in order to build and support healthy and sustainable lives.

These Centers of Hope serve as an extended arm of the Church, seeking to help people through a variety of services such as emergency aid, medical care, trauma counseling, vocational aid, and Biblical discipleship. Each Center of Hope has offerings customized to the needs of their specific community. Some focus more on educational and vocational aid, while others emphasize emergency relief like food and water supplies. Others are offering family and marriage counseling, or medical care. The Centers offer aid to all members of the community regardless of their background. Pastor M\* of one such Center reports "Because we do all kinds of things for the local community, the government has now allowed the church to use the courtyard of a school for children's activities."

The Centers are growing. Eight centers began in 2018. There are now 12 centers up and running and three new centers underway. The program envisions sixty such centers. More than 10,000 people have already been impacted by such Centers. Even in such war-torn countries as Syria, God is working through the Church to bring hope to the people. If you would like more information about persecuted Christians, or to join St. Mark's Christian Persecution Task Force, email us at [christianpersecution@umcstmarks.org](mailto:christianpersecution@umcstmarks.org) or drop us a note at the church office.

## Update on the INN

I had planned to provide an update regarding the county's undertaking to reconfigure the Juvenile Detention Center and how that affected occupancy at the INN, but don't have those details yet. Traditionally the number of guests at the INN is lower during the hot summer months. Then, when the temperatures cool, the numbers climb to more normal rates—that trend continues. With the change of season the INN is seeing more activity. We continue to welcome guests and assist them with their connections while enjoying time together during their stay at the INN. Each has a unique story to share—all the stories touch our hearts. Some stories reflect the severity of our guests' homeland conditions, causing them to flee their country. These, I would prefer to share one-to-one.

Many renovations have taken place at the INN and it is a much less congested, brighter, welcoming environment. Bathrooms have new fixtures and new shower stall liners. Walls have been painted. The electrical service was upgraded to accommodate the greater demand. Also, storage areas have been revised and are now more orderly and logical. The INN certainly benefits from the generous space allotment from First UMC.

### How you can help:

- ▶ As winter approaches, guests need hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, warm jackets, etc. as their destination will take them to areas of the U.S. that will be much colder than Tucson.
- ▶ There is an immediate need for gently used children's clothing—shoes, jeans, sweaters, belts. Also new underwear, and socks.
- ▶ Monetary donations (payable to the Desert Southwest Conference of the UMC, designated to go to the INN).
- ▶ Volunteers (you do not need to speak Spanish) are needed. Smiles, hugs, and a helping hand are spoken in an international language. If you can volunteer (4.5 hours is a typical shift) once a month (or more), please consider giving the gift of time and volunteer. You will receive so much more than you give! It is clearly one of the ways we can share our love as we help our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Donations may be left in the church office labeled the INN c/o Kathie Barrett or contact Kathie (see directory) if you have questions or wish to volunteer.

# Report from the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that St. Mark's finances are strong for the third quarter of 2019.

From Treasurer's Report (As of 9/30/2019)

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance to Budget
<b>Total Income</b>	\$900,075.93	\$921,312.00	(\$21,236.07)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$868,605.63	\$923,719.00	(\$55,113.37)
<b>YTD Difference (Surplus)</b>	<b>\$31,470.30</b>	(\$2,407.00)	\$33,877.30

The Finance Committee has begun the budgeting process for 2020. We kicked off the 2020 Stewardship Campaign, *What the Bible Really Says About Love* on October 20. The guiding scripture from 1 Thessalonians 3:12, *May the Lord make you increase and overflow in love for each other...*, serves as the inspiration for the campaign.

The campaign features videos of our congregation as they seek answers to relevant and thought-provoking questions from our own Bible expert, Bible Bob. **Commitment Sunday is Nov. 17.** You'll be able to bring your pledge card forward for dedication during worship services. You can also place your card in the offering plate, mail it to the church, or bring it to the church office anytime. Or if you prefer, you may make a pledge and give online at [umcstmarks.org](http://umcstmarks.org) (GIVING) or contact Ruth Kester in our church office (520-297-2062) for assistance. *Many thanks for the continued generosity and support for st. Mark's ministries!*

Finance Committee

## Leadership Institute 2019

The Leadership Institute 2019 was held at the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas September 25-27. It was my honor to represent St. Mark's, along with over 2,500 United Methodist leaders representing over 1,300 churches. During the three days of Leadership Institute a lot of ground was covered as we worked together toward a preferred future for the United Methodist Church as well as preparing for a bright future in ministry following General Conference 2020. Together we examined both Scripture and contemporary insights regarding human sexuality, with the aim of committing to full inclusion for all. We explored our denominations history of race and gender exclusion. We also reviewed proposals that are headed for General Conference 2020 next May.

I had the opportunity to attend two workshops that focused on leading change in divided communities. In the seminar entitled **Difficult Conversations**, I learned about using Spiral Dynamics as a tool for understanding our differences in consciousness as it has evolved over the centuries. It instructed me on how to relate and listen to others. The session **Navigating Transition: Leaning into the Future Without Fear**,

informed me that change always entails a loss and grief must be acknowledged before transformation into a new reality can be realized. Members present from the Desert Southwest Annual Conference also met to strategize what direction will be taken, discussing legislation to be written, and confirming the energy, hope and dreams the Conference has for our church.



Pastor Adam Hamilton powerfully led us to return to our churches to ask hard questions, strategize, build support, dialog, listen, and be people of repentance and change. He challenged us to lead a movement for the sake of a vital, missional United Methodist Church that is authentically Christian, passionately Wesleyan, fully inclusive and enthusiastic about reaching all people with the love of Jesus Christ. To further the conversation, please contact me (see directory).

Susan Gerstad

## Gift Cards Make a Joyful Nash Families Christmas

*Here's your last chance to bring gift cards!*

In past years, many of you have generously "adopted" a Nash family and provided gifts and goodies to provide them a merry Christmas. Now, through your continuing generosity, we are hoping to help even more families by collecting \$25 gift cards for Target or Walmart. The cards will be given to Bob Hehli, principal of Nash Elementary, for distribution to needy families by the beginning of December.

Drop your cards off at the Nash table, in the courtyard on Sunday, Nov. 10. Or if prefer, drop off a check and we will be

happy to purchase the cards for you. Make check payable to St. Mark's UMC, and include "Nash Gift Cards" on the memo line. St. Mark's Dove Mountain attendees may give cards or checks to either Mary Kozlov or Carol Cecilia during Sunday service.



If you are unable to drop off your cards or checks on Sunday, you may still drop them off at the church office until Friday, Nov. 15. Your warm generosity is at the heart of this Christmas ministry and will help more Nash families experience a brighter Christmas. Thank you for your generous contributions – so far!

## 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.

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

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Cookie Lynch who passed away on Monday, October 28. A memorial service is pending.

## HOLY YOGA™

The Gospels tell us to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” Holy Yoga provides an opportunity to fellowship with others while stretching, practicing controlled breathing techniques, reflecting on Scriptures, building flexibility and strength, and once in a while, breaking a sweat! “My week feels incomplete if I don’t get to Holy Yoga” – Deb. B.

No matter what level you are at, whether you are someone who takes regular exercise or regularly avoids it, there is a place for you at Holy Yoga. “Holy Yoga is easy and relaxing. It improves balance and increases flexibility and strength. It clears my mind and refreshes me.” – Pat A.

Come try out a class! Sunday’s class is at 4:00 p.m. with a focus on Beginners; there is no expectation of prior experience or strength. Monday’s class is at 9:15 a.m. and is an All-Levels class, with modifications. Holy Yoga is for everybody and Every Body! “I love Monday morning Holy Yoga. It helps me start off to a great week, both physically and spiritually. I don’t like to miss!” – Jan W.

Come as you are, we have mats, straps, and blocks available for borrowing. The only thing we don’t have... is you! There is a suggested donation of \$5 per class. This cost covers instructor pay, purchase of materials, Holy Yoga scholarships, and charitable donations to other ministries. For information, contact Tricia in the church office (520-297-2062).



If you don’t have plans for Thanksgiving and especially don’t want to cook, come join us for our annual **Thanksgiving Day dinner, Thursday, Nov. 28, at noon** in Fellowship Hall. Families are welcome, come join the fun!

The turkeys and drinks will be provided. Everyone attending has the opportunity to bring a dish to contribute to our St. Mark’s family Thanksgiving feast!

If you are interested, please contact 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 can help with cleanup. Registration deadline is Nov. 21!

## Grace Circle Meeting

The Grace Circle of UMW will visit the INN for its November meeting. We will meet in the church Library Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 9:15 a.m. Following a devotion, we will carpool to the INN at 915 E. Fourth Street and assist with various duties. We will return to St. Mark’s by noon.

You are invited to bring jars of peanut butter and jelly, adult size toothbrushes and tooth paste, or small sized clothing for men and women. All women of the church are invited, you don’t need to be a member of the UMW or the church to attend. If you have questions please contact Pat Adams (see directory).



## United Methodist Women Meet Nov. 12

St. Mark’s UMW will meet in the church Library on **Tuesday, Nov. 12**, at 9:30 a.m. for fellowship and refreshments and their program at 10:00 a.m. Alice Brown will be conducting The World Thank Offering and Pledge service at this meeting. The World Thank Offering is one of five channels of Mission Giving. This is an opportunity for individuals to give out of God’s abundance with spontaneous gifts of thanks and gratitude. These funds are used for missions and advocacy in the U.S. and the world. Membership at St. Mark’s or with the UMW is not required—everyone is welcome! Childcare for this meeting may be arranged through the church office (297-2062) by Nov. 7. If you would like a ride or have questions, please contact Kay Hayworth (see directory).

# WASS UP?

November 6, 2019

Volume 20, Issue 21



## UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

### November 10, 2019—

No Youth Group— Happy Veteran's Day!

### November 11, 2019—

9:00-2:45  
South District High Ropes course event. See back for details

### November 17, 2019—

4:00-6:00  
Mission Night!

### November 24, 2019—

Middle School— Bedroxx  
High School— Off Campus Discussion Group

Greetings Preteen Families,

Wow these last few months have flown by. It's hard to believe that it's November already. This is an amazing time of year as we prepare for the upcoming celebrations with our family and friends. Join your St. Marks friends at PreTeen on Sundays!

Blessings,  
Julie

### November 10th-

No PreTeen- Veteran's Day

### November 17th-

4:00-6:00  
Board Games. Bring your favorite game from home to share

### November 24th-

4:00-6:00  
Thanksgiving and Gratitude

Find us on Social Media!



St. Mark's Youth Group



stmarksumyf



## Sierra Service Project 2020!

This just in!! 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!

## District High Ropes Course

November 11 is a day off from school. Awesome! It also just so happens to be the day that the South District Youth are planning a day at the High Ropes Course! It's going to be a blast! We will meet at the Wesley House at 9, and be back by 2:45. All you need is \$10, a sack lunch, and a refillable water bottle! Friends are always welcome, but we need special permission slips, so see Kim or Rachel if you need extras! Scholarships are always available!



## Youth Group Mission Night

Mission is a big part of what we do here at St. Mark's, and we are no exception! Join us on November 17 for a fun mission that we can do right in the Wesley House. No special skills are required, you can all help!

We will be in the Wesley House from 4-6, doing a top secret mission project, and then of course we will have to play some games and have some fun!!

# Calendar Notes

## Saturday, November 9

8:00 a.m. Rummage to the Rescue, parking lot

## Sunday, November 10

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. The Manhattan Dolls Concert

## Monday, November 11

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

## Tuesday, November 12

5:30 p.m. Advisory Board, Library  
6:30 p.m. Church Growth and Hospitality, Rm. 17/18  
6:30 p.m. SPRC, Conf. Rm.  
6:30 p.m. Worship Committee, Rm. 20  
6:30 p.m. Missions Committee, Fellowship Hall

*\*This service is livestreamed.*

## Wednesday, November 13

10:30 a.m. Chronic Illness/Pain Support, Library  
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, Fellowship Hall  
6:30 p.m. Finance Committee, Con. Rm.

## Thursday, November 14

Noon **MESSENGER** DEADLINE

## Saturday, November 16

6:00 p.m. Common Grounds, Library

## Sunday, November 17

### COMMITMENT SUNDAY

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



St. Mark's UMC  
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### 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

### 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.

Thank you to everyone who made Trunk or Treat a success. We had such a fun time seeing all of the kids and grownups dressed up and having fun. From the trinkets to the set up and cleanup crew—we couldn't have done it without you!

*The Family Ministries Committee*

## Pumpkin Patch Update

By now, you're aware that the freeze in New Mexico severely affected the fall pumpkin crop. We pray God's abundant provision will offer income alternatives to those who depended on the pumpkins to support themselves and their families.



Unfortunately, the pumpkin freeze also impacted St. Mark's Pumpkin Patch fundraiser. Our youth typically used these profits (about \$3,000) to help fund the annual mission trip. While the youth may plan a future fundraiser to replace some of its lost profit, several congregants have asked if they could help defray the loss through a donation.

If you also wish to contribute, please indicate separately on your giving envelope, check, or on the St. Mark's website, [umcstmarks.org](http://umcstmarks.org) (**GIVING**), then indicate the specific amount you would like to donate for this purpose in the UMYF (Pumpkins) box. Many thanks for your ongoing generosity to St. Mark's missions and ministries.

## Rainbow Fellowship—meets Nov. 10

St. Mark's Rainbow Fellowship is a group for individuals who identify as LGBTQ and Christian. The group meets for fellowship, support and sharing the joys and concerns of living in these challenging days. Anyone (regardless of age) who identifies as LGBTQ is welcome. The group usually meets on the **third Sunday of the month at 8:30 a.m.** in the church Library. Please contact Melinda Sims, coordinator, or call the office (297-2062) if you would like more information. Better yet, if this group is for you – please join us anytime. Upcoming meetings are Nov. 10 and Dec. 15.



**Address Service Requested**

*Reflections*

*Grateful*

On the first Tuesday and Wednesday of most months, the pastors lead chapel services for the children and staff of St. Mark's Early Childhood Center. From 9:15-9:30 a.m. lots of two through five-year olds and their teachers join us in the Sanctuary for singing, praying, laughing, and learning about the Bible and Jesus' love. This year we are helping the children learn Psalm 23. We're using these words:

The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need.  
He gives me green grass where I can rest  
and walks with me beside still water.

That's as far as we've gotten. We use words and simple actions to help the children learn. They ARE learning about our faith, God's love and gratitude. As I've been reflecting on the phrase "***I have everything I need***" I realize that this is about giving thanks, a statement of assurance that God gives us what we need. I'm glad we're helping the children learn about that assurance and about giving thanks.

Nov. 17, is St. Mark's 2020 stewardship commitment Sunday, around the theme ***What the Bible Says About Love***. Many of you have received commitment cards in the mail. You can bring or mail your commitment anytime. On Nov. 17 we'll have time in worship to bring our cards forward and then we'll ask

God's blessing on our offerings. You can also commit online at ***umcstmarks.org (GIVING)***. Your commitment helps us plan for mission and ministry in 2020.

Our financial commitments are a way of saying to God, "***I have everything I need***" because all that we have and are comes from God. We recognize God's love for us and give so that others can know that love, too.

When you give to our church your gifts support our pastors and staff, the operations of our campus, our commitments to mission in our community and world, our apportionments to the Desert Southwest Conference, and our classes and programs for children, youth and adults. This support is an expression of gratitude for God's goodness, recognizing that God gives us everything we need.

In this season of thanksgiving, I'm grateful for your care, support and encouragement for me, our staff and our church's ministries that reach into the world with love.

*Blessings, Sharon*