

# Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

Volume 60, Number 1  
January 8, 2020



## What Are Your Thoughts?



In February of 2019, a Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church was convened to discuss how the church ministers with LGBTQ+ individuals. As many of you know, the Conference decided to uphold the paragraph in our **Book of Discipline** that states “homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.” (Paragraph 161.f) This decision impacts how we at St. Mark’s treat members of the LGBTQ+ community, both from within and outside our church family. The church leadership has discussed ramifications of that decision among themselves at Advisory Board and Covenant Council meetings, but there has not been a formal opportunity to engage the more than 1,000 other people who worship at St. Mark’s!

THEREFORE, we are inviting any of you who consider St. Mark’s to be your church home to participate in the Input Project. The Input Project was conceived by Rev. Sharon Ragland after conversation with several people. She then invited a small team of church leaders—Susan Gerstad, Brenda Hunter, Dick Williams—to spearhead the Input Project.

We will be hosting a series of small group listening sessions from Jan. 26 through Feb. 1. Each small group will be led by a shepherd who will ask a series of questions to ascertain how you feel about LGBTQ+ matters and the United Methodist Church. This will be an opportunity to share your views in a safe environment, as well as to hear from others. This will NOT be a time of debate or discussion. The shepherds will not present any specific viewpoints, but only listen to your answers.

We request that you prayerfully consider attending “one” of the listening sessions. The gatherings will last approximately 90 minutes, and are being held on the Magee campus. The compiled information will help us to plan our path forward into the future. Please sign up on Sundays at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board in the courtyard, or any time from the website [umcstmarks.org/classes](http://umcstmarks.org/classes).

If you have any questions, please contact a coordinator:

Susan Gerstad (see directory)

Brenda Hunter (see directory)

Dick Williams (see directory)

## Church Campus Workday!

**Saturday, Feb. 8—8:00 a.m. to noon**

The Board of Trustees is asking for volunteers to lend a helping hand and assist with some campus maintenance projects. Various small projects are planned including cleaning Early Childhood Center classrooms, washing windows, painting several inside and outside areas, replacing some tile and baseboards, and other general maintenance tasks around campus.



Materials and supplies will be provided. Your help performing these maintenance tasks supports use of the Board of Trustees budget for larger campus projects such as roofing, air conditioner replacement, security camera installation, parking lot upkeep, etc. There is a place for all willing volunteers to lend a helping hand!

Please R.S.V.P. to Bill Fritz (see directory) to volunteer, or if you have questions.

## Mona Lisa on the Loose!

**Saturday, Feb. 1**

**5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

Join us for Mona Lisa on the Loose a Live Theater Workshop performance sponsored by St. Mark’s Family Ministries. The Mona Lisa painting has hung on the walls of an art museum for over 100 years. What visitors don’t know is that when the



lights go out, the paintings come to life! One day, Mona overhears museum officials’ plans to move her somewhere else because she is no longer attracting visitors to the museum.

Join us for a secret view into the mysterious life of the Mona Lisa and other paintings, after hours, as she plots to save her spot on the walls of the Louvre!

You must reserve your seat(s) for this performance at:

<https://umcstmarks.org/event/mona-lisa-on-the-loose/>

prior to the event. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., a pizza dinner will be served (gluten free option available upon request). Tickets are only \$5 per person which includes dinner and the performance. Reserve your seat(s) today and pay at the door, or drop your money off at the office.

## Trustees Report on Campus Improvements

During 2019, the Board of Trustees implemented a number of significant initiatives on St. Mark's campus in the following three categories:

- ▶ Repair/replace
- ▶ Safety/security
- ▶ Improvements

These initiatives were possible through our congregation's generous contributions to St. Mark's Stewardship Campaign and other designated funds. The Board of Trustees is pleased to provide the following list of major projects enabled through these contributions:

- ▶ Three air conditioning units were replaced on campus: Two on the Wesley House and one on Building #3, which houses the Nursery and Early Childhood Center classrooms. There are a total of 26 air conditioning units servicing the buildings on campus.
- ▶ Three building roofs were overlaid, and one roof required additional work due to wood rot. These three buildings house the Early Childhood Center classrooms, Library, Nursery, and rooms used for Sunday school.
- ▶ Self-opening, ADA compliant, door devices were installed on the entrances to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.
- ▶ The fire alarm systems for the Main Office and the Early Childhood Center are now tied directly to the 24/7 Monitoring Center, negating the need to call emergency services in the case of an alarm.
- A new sidewalk was installed on the north side of Building #3, which now allows safe access from the west parking lot to the Sanctuary and east patio areas. This allows the gates to remain locked when children are present in the west patio area.
- ▶ Security cameras were installed that cover main campus entrance areas and the west patio where children are present for the Early Childhood Center during the week.
- ▶ A Carillon system has been installed in the Sanctuary through the generous donation of a St. Mark's congregant. The installation and operation of this system was a joint effort between the Board of Trustees and our Music Ministries Coordinator.
- ▶ Some work was completed to prepare for a 2020 project to remodel the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. Initial designs are complete, 3-D renderings have been generated, and an asbestos study was conducted that reflected negative results for asbestos.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for the opportunity of serving St. Mark's.

John Cecilia, chairperson  
Board of Trustees

## Lenten Devotional

Submissions due Friday, Feb. 14

The Advent season and Christmas holiday are behind us and in our Christian year we have Ash Wednesday, our Lenten season, and Easter to look forward to. Traditionally Lent is a period of introspection that turns us toward healing and joy.



To help us with our spiritual journey, St. Mark's will once again provide a daily devotional. However, this year, our devotional will be a compilation of submissions from our congregation.

Submissions can be original or from another source (please cite appropriately). They can be a short anecdotes (approximately 250 words), reflections, poems, or visual art. Each submission should be associated with a piece of Scripture with the Scripture indicated on the submission. If there is a specific date during Lent for which the submission would be appropriate, that date can be requested. These requests will be granted on a first come, first served basis. We'll do the best we can.

Preferably, typed submissions can be sent via email to Susan Putt ([susan@umcstmarks.org](mailto:susan@umcstmarks.org)), or handwritten submissions can be dropped off at the church office. These works should be submitted as soon as possible, with the absolute latest date being **Friday, Feb. 14**.

Our goal is to have the devotional book compiled, edited, and printed to begin distribution on Sunday, Feb. 23. So, obviously, the earlier the submissions are turned in, the easier it is for the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Putt (297-2062).

## Newsletter Deadlines!

We hope you enjoy reading the newly formatted newsletter. We've added four additional pages which feature committee activities, events, and other important news about our church.

By increasing the size of the newsletter, we were able to reduce the number of issues per year from 25 to 15. Most times there will be one publication a month. During the busy seasons, two newsletters will be published to keep our congregation informed and up-to-date with the latest happenings.

Please note there will be two newsletters published in February. February 5 (submission deadline is Jan. 30) and February 19 (submission deadline is Feb. 13). Please send articles and photos to [messenger@umcstmarks.org](mailto:messenger@umcstmarks.org). If you have questions or need more clarification please contact Sallyann Wassmuth (297-2062). To download a **2020 Messenger Schedule** go to [umcstmarks.org](http://umcstmarks.org) hover over RESOURCES, then click NEWSLETTER.

# Adult Spiritual Growth

*Faith is a journey!*

Registration is now open for our 2020 learning opportunities! Be sure to register online ([umcstmarks.org/classes](http://umcstmarks.org/classes)) or look for the sign up form for a particular study at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board in the courtyard on Sunday.

## RETREAT

### ***How to Build a Better Life Story***

January 25, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Redemptorist Renewal Center

As you experience life, it's natural to find ways to express yourself creatively and to explore meaningful "work" which contributes positively to society. The cost of not doing so can lead to stagnation, despair, and eventually depression. It takes courage and intention to break through the unconscious resistance we all have to fully embrace a life of meaning and purpose. In this time together, you might find the clarity you've been looking for...hidden potentials, stuck beliefs, a solution to an issue, your next step, "what kind of difference do you want to make?" Led by Dr. Gretchen Hegeman, a psychotherapist and integrative healthcare consultant.

## BIBLE STUDY

### ***Less Than Perfect: Broken Men of the Bible***

Fridays, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Begins Jan. 10, (5 weeks) | Led by Karen Allison

This annual Women's Bible Study is taking a look at something different this year. Ann Spangler takes us beyond cardboard cutouts of biblical characters to reveal people with many of the same dreams, temptations, and weaknesses we have. We will begin with the Story of Cain and end with the Story of Pontius Pilate.

### ***Galatians: Living in Freedom and Love***

Wednesdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Begins Jan. 15, (6 weeks) | Led by Rev. Helen Schindler

So you've put your faith in Christ and are saved by his gracious work on the cross? Wonderful. Now what? How do you go about living as a Christian? The Apostle Paul writes to correct common misconceptions concerning saved by grace. Come explore the beauty of Paul's words in his letter to the Galatians.

### ***What is the Bible?***

Sundays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Begins Jan. 19, (6 weeks) | Led by Rev. Judy Boroto

A broad overview of the Bible, including selection, organization, background, context and archaeology. The basics for getting the most out of your Bible and Bible study.

## PRAYER

### ***Sacred Rhythms***

Mondays, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Begins Jan. 20 (6 weeks) | Led by Rev. Judy Boroto

The author explores the practices that spiritual seekers and growing disciples have used throughout history to grow closer to God. It provides guidance in a way that links the disciplines of the Christian faith to the most compelling desires of the human soul. Each session offers specific practices that allow you to experience each discipline and incorporate it into your life.

### ***Images of the Spirit***

Wednesdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Begins April, 22 (6 weeks) | Led by Rev. Helen Schindler

How do you picture the Holy Spirit? A vague fuzzy cloud? An invisible, impersonal force? Scripture helps us by giving us strong word pictures of the Spirit as wind, fire, a counselor, anointing oil and more. Through this study, you will find that your mental picture of the Spirit comes into focus. You will find that you can have a real relationship with the third person of the Trinity and experience the power, comfort, and gifts that flow from it.

## ORIGINS OF THE FAITH

### ***Introduction to Judaism***

Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Begins Jan. 30 (10 weeks) | Part 1 of a 2-part study

Led by Alberta Farnsworth, Linda Sterling, Judy Boroto

What could be simpler than a single people worshiping a single God for more than 3,000 years? But Judaism is far from simple, and as a religion, culture, and civilization, it has evolved in surprising ways during its lengthy and remarkable history. This DVD-based curriculum focuses on: Torah and the Hebrew Bible; Judaic view of study, prayer, kindness; messianism; various holidays; Judaic sects and more. Presented by Professor Shai Cherry from Vanderbilt University.

*Continued on page 4 ...*

## ***The Life and Land of John Wesley***

Mondays, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Begins Feb. 3, (4 weeks)

Led by Rev. Sharon Ragland and Mark Hrabec

The story of the beginning of Methodism and the man who led the movement. Hear how John Wesley moved from uncertainty to assurance of God's grace. Look at those places that were important in that movement and its roots. It is designed for those going on the tour to England in April 2020, but the class is open to everyone.

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

### ***Living the Questions***

Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. | Part 1 of a 3-part study

Begins Jan. 20, (7 weeks)

Led by Art Ragland, Rev. Roger Pierce

Materials cost \$8.00

Back by popular demand! This DVD-based curriculum is designed to help people who wrestle with the relevance of Christianity in the 21st century. Presenters include pastors, theologians, and biblical scholars.

### ***The Mastery of Love***

Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Begins Jan. 23, (6 weeks) | Led by Margaret Synhorst

***The Mastery of Love—A Practical Guide to the Art of Relationship*** is a holistic book that integrates mind, soul, body, and emotion through the thread of love. This book gives you a profound insight on human relationships—how we conduct them and what we want from them. This book discussion is a follow up to the ***The Four Agreements*** study.

## **LENT**

### ***Lenten Studies***

Lenten Studies will be offered at both Magee and Dove Mountain campuses as well as several off-campus locations. Specific information on these groups will be available by mid-February.

### ***Prayer Bead Workshop***

Sunday, Feb. 23, 1:30-4:30 p.m. | Rm. 17/18

Led by Brenda Hunter

There are many ways to pray, which is good, because prayer is one of the spiritual disciplines that can help us to get closer to God! You are invited to explore one of those ways with us at our prayer bead workshop. During this time, you will assemble your own set of beads (cost is \$5.00 for materials) and then experiment with different ways to use them.

### ***Centering Prayer Workshop***

Saturday, Feb. 29, 9:00-11:00 a.m. | Led by Margaret Synhorst

An interactive experience of the spiritual practice of centering prayer, culminating with creating a Lenten prayer object.

## **ONGOING STUDY**

### ***Family Life/Sharing Class***

Sunday, 9:45-10:45 a.m., Rm. 17/18 (5 weeks)

Led by Terry Majewski, Rick Farnsworth

A book/DVD study a Wesleyan approach to the Bible and the Christian life through a Bible study using Wesley's own words from his sermons. The authors show how the teachings of Wesley address questions that many of us in the twenty-first century still struggle with today.

### ***Seekers Class***

Sunday, 11:15am-12:15 p.m. , Rm. 17/18

Led by Brenda Hunter, Kelly Deyoe

This class continues its in-depth study of *2 Chronicles*.

No book is required other than your Bible.

### ***Mountain View Retirement Village Study Group***

Begins Monday, Jan. 6, 10:30 -11:30 a.m. (6 weeks)

Led by Marge Sogn

This study focuses on various Scripture passages related to the topic of hope. At times God seems very close and hope becomes so real. During a time of tragedy or hardship, we wonder whether our hopes will leave us exposed, vulnerable, and overwhelmed. No book is required.

### ***Wednesday Study Group***

Begins Wednesday, Jan. 8, 10:00 a.m., Library

Led by Marcia Rostad

This group will try a potpourri approach regarding class content for this study. Weekly content will vary.

## **Questions/Assistance**

If you have questions, or would like more information about a particular study, please contact Judy Boroto, Adult Spiritual Growth chairperson or Margaret Synhorst, staff liaison.

Judy: see directory

Margaret: see directory

## **2020 South District Leadership Event**

Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020

10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Catalina United Methodist Church

2700 E Speedway Blvd, Tucson

Featuring Rev. David McPherson

Registration is \$20.00.

For more info. and to register, visit: <https://dscumc.org/event/2020-south-district-leadership-event/>

Childcare is available for registered infants and children of all ages and abilities. Registration deadline for child care is Monday, Feb. 10.

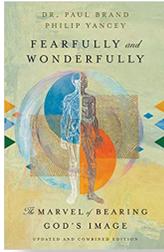
# Open Minds Book Study

Facilitators: Todd & Tyger Penson

2020 is here! A new year calls for new adventures. One of those could be reading books and discussing them and the issues that arise from that reading with other Christian friends and neighbors. We invite you to join us. There will be coffee and a snack available.

## January

Friday, Jan. 31, at 9:30 a.m. at our next book study gathering at St. Mark's Library, we will discuss the book, ***Fearfully and Wonderfully: The Marvel of Bearing God's Image*** by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey. This newly published book (2019) features Dr. Brand's description of the human body with Philip Yancey taking those human attributes and applying them to the Body of Christ, the Church. The book is readable and understandable. Dr. Brand also served as a doctor to Lepers of India which adds an additional layer to our reading. The Scripture connected to it is from Psalm 139. Be sure to buy the 2019 version. It can be ordered from Amazon.



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## P.D. Ronstadt & The Company

Sunday Jan. 12, 3:00 p.m. — Sanctuary

Join us on Sunday, Jan. 12, as Petie Ronstadt presents a concert in St. Mark's sanctuary at 3:00. Like all of the programs in the Musical Musings concert series, it is free and open to the community. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy an afternoon of unique music.

Peter Dalton Ronstadt (Petie) is a fifth generation Ronstadt, son of late Michael J. Ronstadt, nephew of Linda Ronstadt, and great grandson of Federico Jose Maria Ronstadt. He plays the bass, guitar, banjo, tuba, and sings. He is one of the Ronstadt's in Ronstadt Brothers (formerly Ronstadt Generations) with his older brother Michael G. Ronstadt. He is a recording engineer and producer working out of LandMark Sound



Recorders which he co-owns and operates with Sam Eagon. He has a beautiful wife, Jackie, and daughter, Annabelle. He is a Tucsonan, through and through.

Peter Dalton Ronstadt is a writer and interpreter of song, a recording engineer and producer, a poet and lyricist, and an all-around post-modern American songster from the great American southwest. Ronstadt aims to explore the musical heritage of his family while presenting new and original material. Along with his band of Tucsonans, The Company, Petie paints a musical picture of the American Southwest by presenting music from the region, music from Mexico, collected favorites, songs of his father, and new songs that draw inspiration from all the elements of his upbringing. With a lush tapestry of instruments along with unique arrangements, enjoy a moment in time while P.D. Ronstadt & The Company take you on a musical journey that will lift spirits and stir memories.

## February

On Friday, Feb. 22, (one week early) we will discuss ***Quicksand*** by Henning Mankell. After Mr. Mankell, a mystery story writer, discovered he was dying, he wrote this last book, sharing what he sees as important issues to address. "Profoundly moving in its choice of hope over despair." The Guardian.

## March

During the Lenten season, on Friday, March 27, we will read ***No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*** by Reza Aslan. More about this later.

Please put this mind-opening small group gathering on your calendar and "to-do list." All gatherings are at 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. in the church Library. You will be blessed because of it. Bring your friends. A very blessed new year to all!

Todd and Tyger Penson

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## Tucson Concert Band

Sunday Jan. 26, 3:00 p.m. — Sanctuary



Start the New Year out right and join Tucson Concert Band on Sunday January 26 at 3 pm at St. Mark's Methodist Church as the band performs Love and Romance. The band, under the direction of Lorelei Allison Conrad, will feature John Philip Sousa's "Fairest of the Fair," two works by Leroy Anderson, "Promenade and Bell of the Ball," Sergie Prokofiev's "March for the Love of Three Oranges," Claude Debussy's "Girl with the Flax in Hair," Itaru Sakai's "Seventh Night in July," Jay Dawson's "Tennessee Salute," Richard L. Saucedo's "With Each Sunset (Comes The Promise of A New Day)," and James Swearingon's beautiful setting of the Elvis classic, "I Can't Help Falling In Love." The concert is free and open to the community. Donations from a freewill offering will be graciously accepted and greatly appreciated.

The Tucson Concert Band, formerly Beaver's Tucson Concert Band, is in its 52nd year of performing for Southern Arizona audiences. Founded by Howard Beaver in 1966, this nonprofit volunteer community concert band is currently conducted by Lorelei Allison Conrad and provides concerts to the greater Tucson area throughout the year.

The band's purpose is to provide a creative opportunity for musicians, age 18 or older, to share musical talents and bring enjoyment to others through public performance. They are formally organized as an Arizona Non-Profit Corporation.

Welcome to the “new” Missions page of the Messenger newsletter! Our aim is to keep you informed and inspired with all the meaningful ways that you, your prayers, and your donations (monetary and other) are reaching others locally, nationally and globally in God’s name, by touching lives in need.

Guided by the Missions Committee, our church entrusts 10% its annual budget to be used for outreach ministries, currently numbering almost 30 organizations, along with other needs we can respond to throughout the year.

The committee practices responsible stewardship by using the tithe from the church’s annual budget plus three special offerings each year, by collecting many types of in-kind donations from this generous congregation, and by providing hands-on mission opportunities where persons can be involved in one-time or ongoing projects.

## Small Things are a Big Help!

There is a fire and people in the area lose everything. A sudden flood wipes out a family’s possessions and they are all alone. A hurricane or tornado hits and destroys everything for miles around, but the people are still there with nothing to make them feel better. A homeless person has arrived in a shelter with nothing to his or her name.



As they are in such distress, a volunteer comes up holding a large box—with the letters UMCOR on the outside—takes out a small package wrapped in a plastic bag and gives one to each adult and child standing there in their sad condition. This could have been some of the 300 hygiene kits that the wonderful people at St. Mark’s assembled at the Advent Workshop. These kits were sent to depots in either Salt Lake City, UT or Baldwin, LA,

where they were processed and delivered to people in need. Sometimes the mission that no one sees can be the most help. God bless everyone for all your help.

*Sherri Wyland, UMCOR Liaison*

## DONATION Depot

Each week, St. Mark’s collects different items for its partner organizations. Donations may be left at the “depot” in the courtyard on Sunday morning:

- ▶ 1st Sunday—Food
- ▶ 2nd Sunday—Personal items
- ▶ 3rd Sunday—Clothes
- ▶ 4th Sunday—Food
- ▶ 5th Sunday—Clothes

*It’s a great time of year to donate clothing that’s no longer needed or “canned goods” to help feed the hungry!*

## The Missions Fair is coming!

**Sunday, January 12 – Fellowship Hall**

You are invited to the St. Mark’s Mission Fair! Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Jan. 12 after any service. We will have representatives from many of our partner organizations and the mission committee liaisons for some of the organizations as well.

At the fair, you will have an opportunity to meet with these people, learn about what the organizations do and the good work our mission monies make possible, and see if you are interested in becoming involved with any of the organizations. Sunday morning refreshments will be served.

## Thank You St. Mark’s

*A note of thanks from Bob Hehli, principal, Nash Elementary School for the 193, \$25 Gift Cards (\$4,825) donated by our congregation for families at Nash during Christmas!*

Having a partnership with the St. Mark’s community for the past 16 years has been nothing but a blessing for the Nash Elementary School community.

This fall the blessing continued, as generous members of St. Mark’s once again went above and beyond in their support of our school showing generosity and love for truly helping others



in need. Your members donated a large amount of gift cards to support students, families and staff at Nash during the holiday season. Gratefulness can be expressed a lot of different ways and I

saw firsthand how grateful those that received gift cards were. Tears of joy, huge smiles, humble responses and simple genuine appreciation and thanks were expressed from all. Fifty-two children from twenty-three different families will be blessed this holiday season because of your generosity. Never underestimate the power of kindness and love expressed to others.

On behalf of the Nash School Community, I sincerely thank you all for your ongoing support and I am truly humbled to be a part of the St. Mark’s family.

# Youth Ministry

The latest news for High School, Middle School and PreTeen Students!



## Events Calendar

### Middle and High School Students

#### Sunday, Jan. 12

(time coming soon) Middle School—Movie Day \$5  
4:00-6:00 p.m. High School—Off Campus Discussion Group

#### Sunday, Jan. 19

No Youth Group (Martin Luther King weekend)

#### Monday, Jan. 20

One-Day Retreat SNOW DAY!

#### Sunday, Jan. 26

1:30-4:00 p.m. Youth Leadership Team  
4:00-6:00 p.m. Middle School Underground Church  
4:00-6:00 p.m. High School, Off Campus Discussion Group

#### Sunday, Feb. 2

after services SOUPer Bowl  
Time TBA South District Super Bowl Party!

#### Sunday, Feb. 9

4:00-6:00 p.m. Middle School Movie Night  
4:00-6:00 p.m. High School, Off Campus Discussion Group

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Calling all High School Students!

For this semester, we will continue our **off campus discussion group** on the second and fourth Sunday of every month. In

January, that is the 12th and 26th. Come join with

other high schoolers and faith coach to talk about current topics, and of course have some caffeine while you are there! Meet at the Wesley House and travel together.



### Winter Retreat News!

For the last thirteen years, St. Mark's has held its Winter Retreat at Fort Lone Tree in New Mexico. We found out that they decided to close for the winter this year, so this year's retreat will look a little different! We will meet on Monday, January 20 for a one-day retreat playing in snow close by! Stay tuned for more information.



### Youth Leadership Team

Our Youth Leadership Team will be meeting for our second meeting on Jan. 26. If you are interested in joining this fun team, but didn't turn in an application in the fall, don't worry! There's still time! Email Kim or Rachel and we will get you the information you need. We would love to have you!

## Super Bowl Party!

On Feb. 2, Rachel's team will be going to the Super Bowl. Mostly because she doesn't pick **her team** until we find out who made it to the super bowl. Better odds that way! **All youth in grades 6-12** are invited to come watch the big game on the big screen with the entire South District at Catalina. We'll keep you posted on times.



BEFORE the game, our Youth Group has a fun mission that

we do every year—the **SOUPer bowl!**



After every church service, members of our youth group stand outside of the Sanctuary holding big soup pots and collect money for the Community Food Bank. It's fun, especially when you stand with friends! We need youth to hold the

soup pots after each service. Pick a friend, and let Kim or Rachel know at which service you plan to help.

## January Birthdays

Jan. 1—Liam DaDeppo  
Jan. 9—Zoe Newell  
Jan. 14—Sydney Edwards  
Jan. 26—Jax Gibbs  
Jan. 27—Kaiden Kiracofe  
Jan. 28—Annika Norine



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Middle School goes to the Movies!

On Jan. 12, we will be going to the movies! Check the facebook page on Thursday to get all the info. Only \$5!

### Ever Play Underground Church?

It's a favorite at St. Mark's Youth Group! Students in grades 6-8, come on January 26 ready to run, hide, and have a ton of fun.

### Movie Night at the Wesley House!

On Feb. 9, while the high school students go off campus for a discussion group, the Middle School students are turning the Wesley House into a theater! Wear something comfy and bring something soft to sit on! We will provide the popcorn and the movie, you provide the friends and laughter!



Youth news continued on page 8

## Timely Hands-On Missions Help Needed

### Market on the Move, Feb. 1

7 a.m. – noon, church parking lot  
 Help in various ways selling fresh produce, 60 lb. for \$10.  
 Contact: Lenna Burnham (see directory)

### Community Food Bank, Jan. 11

Help pack food boxes. Van transportation from church at 7:45 a.m. or meet at Food Bank at 8:30 a.m.  
 Contact: K.J. Naae (see directory)

### Primavera Meals, ongoing

Second and fifth Saturday volunteers needed!  
 Use the church kitchen to prepare a meal for 100 men. Then deliver and serve the meal at the Men's Shelter. (Jan., Feb. dates are booked) Check the signup sheet in the church narthex for openings! A recipe book of popular meal ideas & recipes used for Primavera is available in church office for first-timers!

Contact: Casey Compernelle (see directory)

## Conference Mission Trip—Feb. 28!



Last March, 70 United Methodist churches in the conference 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.

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/2019/09/2020conference-wide-3-day-mission-trip-to-puerto-penascomexico/>

Mike and Lorraine Eyer,  
 DSC UMVIM Coordinators

## Make Your Summer Plans, Now!

**Middle School Mission** will be May 26-29, 2020 this year. Anyone who has finished grades 6-8 will definitely want to be there!



**Sierra Service Project (SSP)** will be July 10-18, 2020 for students who have finished grades 8-12. If you are interested in attending SSP, a \$40 deposit will hold your spot!



## Events Calendar-PreTeens

### Sunday, Jan. 12

4:00-6:00 p.m. Relays and Resolutions

### Sunday, Jan. 19

No Preteen group Martin Luther King weekend

### Sunday, Jan. 26

4:00-6:00 p.m. Board Games

### Sunday, Jan. 2

4:00-6:00 p.m. SUPER big games

### Sunday, Jan. 9

4:00-6:00 p.m. Valentine Celebration

### New Year Resolutions

You hear a lot about New Year resolutions, but did you make any!? Come play some amazing relay races and talk about 2020 (doesn't that sound weird!? 2020!? Whoa...) on Jan. 12.

### Board Game Extravaganza!

Who got a new board game for Christmas!? On Jan. 26, PreTeens will hold a **board game extravaganza**. Bring your favorite game (new or old) and share it with your friends from church.

### Super Big Games

On Feb. 2, some people will be watching a big game on TV. Here at PreTeen, we will PLAY the BIG games. Come see how many SUPER BIG games you can play in two hours!

## Soul Station 2020

The New Year brings new possibilities and renewed optimism at this special time each year!

Come and join Soul Station each Wednesday during January as we begin looking at the possibilities of the year ahead with the topic of forgiveness. We cannot move forward without acknowledging where we have been. Looking at our past often means we need to deal with forgiveness in many forms.

**Jan. 8—Forgiveness of Ourselves**

**Jan. 15—Forgiveness in our "Inner Circle" relationships**

**Jan. 22—Forgiveness in our "Outer Circle" relationships**

**Jan. 28—Input Project Session (registration is required)**

We gather at 5:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for dinner and Fellowship. Our program begins at 6:15 p.m. and includes Children's Time. After the program, we gather for Holy Communion about 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend dinner and our evening program, or just the program. Childcare is available for families who need that service.

## SOUPER BOWL of Caring

On Sunday, Feb. 2, you will see youth in the courtyard after worship, holding soup pots. They will be collecting spare change for the Souper Bowl of Caring.

The concept of the **Souper Bowl** is this—that while many of us consume tons of junk food and enjoy a championship football game, millions of people are going hungry!

100% of everything collected in the youth's soup pots will go to the local Community Food Bank. Missions Committee supports this project.



## Rainbow Fellowship

Rainbow Fellowship Group meets Sunday, Jan. 19, 8:30 a.m. in the church Library. Anyone (regardless of age) who identifies as LGBTQ is welcome. We meet for fellowship, support and sharing the joys and concerns of living in these challenging days. 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.



### Mark your calendar!

During 2020, Rainbow Fellowship will continue to meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 8:30-9:30 a.m. at church Library. Here's a schedule of tentative dates for the year: Feb. 16, Mar. 15, Apr. 19, May. 17, Jun. 21, Jul. 19, Aug. 16, Sep. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, and Dec. 20.

## Tax Update

## 2019 Tax Year/2020 Planning

### Guide to Required Minimum Distributions and Qualified Charitable Distributions.

For those age 70-1/2 or older with traditional Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), an updated Guide to Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) and Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) is now available to view or download from our website at [umcstmarks.org/RESOURCES](http://umcstmarks.org/RESOURCES).

This Guide also includes new 2019 Federal income tax standard deductions that increased due to inflation. There may be additional tax-savings opportunities available to you by leveraging a combination of standard deduction(s) and a QCD. For those new to RMDs and QCDs, both parties benefit!

You benefit when the QCD counts toward fulfillment of your annual RMD. You benefit when a QCD is transferred tax-free from your IRA account directly to a qualified charity by your IRA Trustee/Custodian. And you benefit when this pre-tax income is excluded from your adjusted gross income, tax liability, and doesn't affect your tax bracket.

Charities benefit from and appreciate your gift. It enables them to include your support in their budget, so that programs or causes meaningful to you continue and prosper. QCDs are also tax-savvy. By using pre-tax versus after-tax dollars to fund charitable giving, it frees your after-tax dollars for other purposes.

When doing your early 2020 planning, consider QCDs. It would be a wonderful way to:

- Donate to our 2020 Kitchen Remodel Project where your gift will help transform our goal into reality, serving St. Mark's fellowship for years to come,
- Fulfill your annual Stewardship Campaign commitment, or
- Provide a gift in honor or memory of a loved one.

*Lezley Barth, chairperson  
Finance Committee*

## Coffee Hosts Needed

After the first two Sunday services, our Coffee Hosts work diligently to supply us with refreshments. Maybe you've enjoyed the coffee, tea, lemonade, cookies, or snacks?



If you are looking for a way to support our church family through service, consider becoming a Coffee Host! This is often just a once-a-month commitment.

We are especially in need of two or three people who are available after the 9:45 a.m. service on the 4th Sunday of each month. If this is you, please contact the church office (297-2062).

## United Methodist Women Meeting

St. Mark's UMW will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 14, the church Library. Please join us at 9:30 for refreshments and our meeting at 10:00 a.m. The program will be provided by St. Mark's Safety Committee. The Safety committee is focused on four main areas:

- ▶ Medical Response
- ▶ Children/Vulnerable Adults
- ▶ Fire and Safety
- ▶ Disruptive Persons



Come and learn more about what has been done and what is planned to insure safety at St. Mark's. All are welcome. You do not have to be a member of St. Marks or the United Methodist Women. Childcare can be available by contacting the church office (297-2062) on or before Jan. 10, 2020. If you have questions or need a ride, contact Kay Hayworth (see directory).

## Agua Prieta Coffee Sales Sunday, Jan. 12—courtyard



St Mark's Agua Prieta Task Force will sell one-pound bags of 100% Arviaca, free-trade coffee in the courtyard on Sunday morning, Jan. 12.

Cafe la Colonia produces this coffee, and is run by members of Fuente de Vida (Methodist) church in Agua Prieta, Mexico, across the border from Douglas, AZ. The coffee is \$10 per bag, and all proceeds go to them. Both whole bean and ground coffee is available in Medium or Dark Roast blends in regular and decaffeinated.

St. Mark's and other Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist churches have helped support Fuente de Vida for many years. Thank you for your participation. If you have questions, please stop by the sales table, or contact Robert Kitterill.

## 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).

### PLEASE NOTE:

January Classes: No class Sunday Jan. 12, or Jan. 26  
February Classes: No class Sunday Feb. 2, or Feb. 23

*Tricia Chester, Instructor*

## 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  
Dave and Jan Webster  
Judy Wickham  
Lindsay Williams*

# Calendar Notes

## Sunday, January 12

### Missions Fair - Fellowship Hall

### Agua Prieta Coffee Sale - Courtyard

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. P.D. Ronstadt & The Company, Sanctuary  
4:00 p.m. PreTeens, Rm. 8/9  
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Wesley House

## Monday, January 13

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

## Tuesday, January 14

9:00 a.m. UMW Meeting, Library  
4:30 p.m. Meditation Gardens Board, Conf. Rm.  
5:30 p.m. Advisory Board, Library  
6:30 p.m. Missions Committee, Fellowship Hall  
6:30 p.m. SPRC, Conf. Rm.

*\*This service is livestreamed.*

## Wednesday, January 15

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, Fellowship Hall

## Thursday, January, 16

6:30 p.m. Nash Neighbors, Library  
7:00 p.m. Divorce Recovery

## Friday, January, 17

9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study, Rm. 17/18

## Sunday, November 19

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
8:30 a.m. Rainbow Fellowship, Library  
\*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. **No** PreTeen or Youth Group

## Monday, January 20

**Office Closed - in observance of Martin Luther King**  
One-day Youth "snow" Retreat, Off Campus



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

### 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.

Thankful and grateful for all the prayers, cards, and wonderful church family that helped and still are helping with healing after my car accident. With many thanks to Pastor Evy for demonstrating how to navigate steps and for her visit. God has blessed me with all of you.

*Jacque Lucke*

We wish to thank the members of Saint Marks for all the love, support, and prayers that you sent our way in regard to the death of our oldest daughter. This support helped us get through this bittersweet experience. We miss her but know she now has no pain and is in a better place.

*Paul and Carla Boettcher*

## Reflections

*Continued from back page...*

If you have questions contact Susan Gerstad (see directory), Brenda Hunter (see directory), or Dick Williams (see directory).

Wow...this is a lot to ponder as we move into 2020! I pray daily for God's guidance and wisdom and am confident that God is leading St. Mark's into a strong future. I praise God daily for the chance to serve and lead, in Jesus' name.

Blessings, Sharon



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## Reflections

The United Methodist Church has been in the news a great deal lately as our denomination wrestles with a plan for the future of the church. On or around Jan. 3, 2020, you may have read or heard about the plan developed by a diverse, 16-member group of United Methodist leaders and bishops which would preserve The United Methodist Church while allowing traditionalist-minded congregations to form a new denomination. This plan is detailed in a nine-page document **Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation**. You can get more information about how this Protocol was developed and the details of it at: [umc.org](http://umc.org), then go to "General Church", where you will find a long article and a link to the FAQ sheet. Or go to The Desert Southwest Conference website: [dscumc.org](http://dscumc.org). Click on 2020 General Conference, then on **More About GC 2020 News**. You will find information and the FAQ sheet there, too.

Here is important current info for you: Right now the Protocol is a proposal from a broad-based group of leaders. The Protocol is being developed into legislation to go to the meeting of the General Conference, May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis. If it is passed there it would be implemented in the months and years following. If it is passed churches that support the Traditional Plan (adopted at the Special Session of General Conference in Feb., 2019) could separate from the UMC and form a new denomination. Those churches that remain would continue to be the United Methodist Church and would hold a Special General Conference to address the LGBTQ+ matters in the **Book**

**of Discipline**. There are many questions and unknown details about the Protocol that will become clearer over time.

Right now, St. Mark's has no decisions or changes to be made. We will continue to do worship and carry out our mission to **change the world through Christ by caring for all people**. We may have decisions to make after the 2020 General Conference in May. You can be sure that your pastors and leaders will do our best to keep you informed and in the loop about this.

Right now, St. Mark's has embarked upon the **INPUT PROJECT**, an opportunity for you to give your input about LGBTQ+ matters and the church. Small listening group sessions will be held the week of Jan. 26—Feb. 1 at various times at our church. The purpose of this is to give you a chance to give your input in a small group with a trained, impartial leader. The pastors and staff are supportive of the Project but are not involved in the small groups. The input from the small group sessions will be compiled and given to our Covenant Council to keep them informed and to guide their future decision-making. To sign up for a listening session stop at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board on Sunday mornings or go to [umcstmarks.org/classes](http://umcstmarks.org/classes).

*Continued on page 11 ...*