

# Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

Volume 60, Number 3

February 19, 2020



## Lent Alive!

**Lent Alive!** Have you ever thought about adding something to your life instead of giving up something during Lent? This is a practice that I have done many times in my life. It has been something that has helped me grow in my walk with Christ. If adding something into your life instead of taking something away sounds appealing to you, we will be offering something that might fit the bill nicely. St. Mark's is adding a new service to our Sunday morning worship offerings for the season of Lent. Lent Alive! will be a modern style worship service at 9:45 a.m., in Fellowship Hall.

**Lent Alive!** will not interfere with the other wonderful worship services that we have at St. Mark's. It is meant to be something special that we are adding as a part of Lent to help people grow in their walk with Christ. I cannot begin to tell you how excited I am that we are offering this service during Lent this year!

I hope to see you at **Lent Alive!**

*Pastor Stuart*

## U of A Symphonic Choir Concert



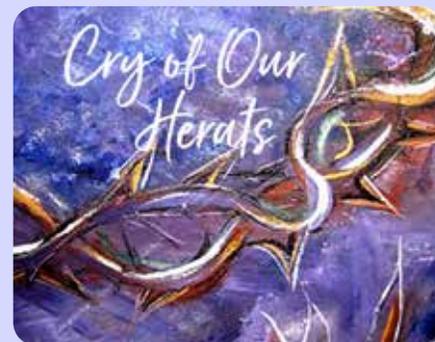
**University of Arizona Symphonic Choir**, under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Schauer, returns to St. Mark's for a dynamic program featuring traditional choral works as well as compelling world music selections from a variety of cultures and religions.

The concert is scheduled for **Friday, Feb. 28, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. Symphonic Choir has an enthusiastic following in Tucson, and is celebrated for its vibrant tone and engaging performances.

The Canyon Singers of Canyon del Oro High School, under the direction of Brandi Dignum, will be joining in this performance. The concert is free and open to the community.

## Ash Wednesday is February 26!

Lent is a season of turning back to God and preparing ourselves for the coming of Easter. Lent will start this year on Wednesday Feb. 26. On that day we will celebrate what is known as Ash Wednesday. This celebration, which dates back to the 11th century, is how many Western Christians start the season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday ashes are mixed with olive oil and imposed on the forehead in the shape of a cross. This practice is thought to have connections with Daniel 9:3 which reads "Then I turned to the Lord God, to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes."



On Ash Wednesday we will have imposition of ashes by Pastor Sharon from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the church Sanctuary. Later that day, we will come together as a community to worship at 6:30 p.m.

Please consider starting your Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday celebrations—all are welcome!



## **Campaign Reminder**

If you haven't already completed your Commitment Card or made a donation for the Kitchen Remodel Campaign there's still time to participate in this exciting project. During the next few weeks, the Kitchen Remodel Leadership Team will periodically update the congregation on the progress toward achieving our Kitchen Remodel Campaign Goal of \$300,000. At present, we are about halfway to that goal! You will want to be among those that helped us get there, especially once we join in fellowship in our newly remodeled kitchen. Our progress-to-date was only possible through the generosity and early participation of congregants who believed as we do in the value of a kitchen to St. Mark's ministries. Additionally, they recognized the importance of our church's compliance with health and safety guidelines in building for the future.

Your Commitment Cards or donations can be placed in the offering plate or delivered to the church office. Kitchen Remodel Campaign can be referenced in the memo field on checks and/or giving envelopes to ensure it is reflected appropriately in St. Mark's records and your personal Giving Statements. For online giving, go to [www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org) GIVING. If assistance is needed to make a contribution to the Kitchen Remodel Campaign, contact St. Mark's Bookkeeper, Ruth Kester, in the church office (297-2062).

We have some really fun activities planned in the fall to celebrate our new kitchen, so we hope you will join us in driving our Kitchen Remodel Campaign to a strong finish!

## **Learn. Love. Grow Together 2020 —A Conversation for All**

The purpose of this program is to inform congregants and increase their understanding of the LGBTQ+ community in order to collaborate in seeking a way forward for our church.

Many of you who participated in the input project expressed that you would like more information about the LGBTQ+ community, the theology underpinning the current decisions facing the United Methodist Church, and many, many of you wanted the opportunity to have discussions concerning these matters.

Now is the time for all of those things to happen! Please join the Adult Spiritual Growth Committee, the Church and Society Committee, and members of the Rainbow Fellowship for a day to learn, love, and grow together. We will have the same opportunity available on both days, so you choose either Saturday, March 21, or Saturday, March 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. light breakfast and lunch provided. Choose ONE DAY to attend.

Have you ever asked yourself any of these questions?

- What does the Bible really say about LGBTQ+ persons?
- What does the Bible say about the inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons?
- How do United Methodists approach Scripture and its interpretation?
- What do all those letters LGBTQ+, even mean?
- What is the difference between sexuality and gender?
- How do I talk with church members who believe differently or have different experiences than mine?

If so, this day is for you. Please register for "one" of the two dates available. You may register online or on Sundays, you may sign up at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board in the courtyard.

## **St. Mark's Campus Maintenance**

If you happen to notice a maintenance issue on campus, please do not attempt to fix it yourself. Report your concern by contacting the church office. The staff will make sure the problem is addressed promptly.

Thank you!



# Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

## Prepare For The Season Of Lent!

### Prayer Bead Workshop

Sunday, Feb. 23, 1:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

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 in this workshop. During this time you will assemble your own set of beads and then experiment with different ways to use them. There is a \$5.00 charge for materials.



### Faith Rocks Workshop

Saturday, Feb. 29, 9:00—11:00 a.m.

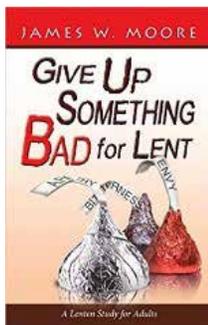
Led by Margaret Synhorst, Amy Gosla  
Come design a faith Rock! You have a great opportunity to add a new practice to your prayer life. Centering prayer is a receptive method of listening to God's voice. We will talk about centering prayer and what it is, make a prayer rock to take home with you, and practice centering prayer.



### Lenten Study Groups

Groups will begin on Sunday, March 1, with several groups meeting throughout the week for the six-week Lenten season. Several groups will be doing a study by James Moore entitled: **Give Up Something BAD for Lent**.

During Lent each year, Christians give up something as an act of sacrifice and spiritual discipline. Often, we give up something like chocolate, knowing that after Easter Sunday we can once again enjoy what we have given up. James Moore challenges us to take it further—to give up something we are better off not doing. He invites us to seek God's help to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking. Life would be much better. Groups following this study include:



### Family Life/Sharing

Sundays, 9:45 a.m., begins March 1  
Led by Terry Majewski, Rick Farnsworth

### Lenten Study Group

Sundays, 11:00 a.m., begins March 1  
Led by Judy Boroto, Margaret Synhorst

### Mountain View Bible Study

(Mtn. View Retirement Ctr.)  
Mondays, 10:30 am. , begins March 2  
Led by Marge Sogn

### Other Lenten studies offered:

#### Wednesday Study Group

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. begins Feb. 26

Led by Marcia Rostad

This group will study: **Entering the Passion of Jesus** by Amy-Jill Levine. Amy-Jill tells us how the story raised ethical and spiritual questions and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. Each session will guide us through the last days before the crucifixion and will examine what is at risk during that moment.

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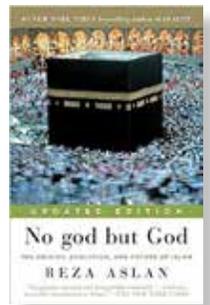
## Open Minds Book Study

Led by Todd and Tyger Penson

This coming Friday, February 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the church library, is the next Open Minds Book Study gathering. We will be looking at two different books: **Fearfully and Wonderfully** by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey and **Quicksand** by Henning Mankell.

We soon enter into the Lenten Season, (Feb. 26) and we will focus upon faith issues. For March 27, our selection is **No god but God** by Reza Aslan.

It is a study about the Islam faith written by an internationally acclaimed scholar. The book jacket explains, "This updated edition addresses the events of the past decade in a new preface and final chapter, analyzing how they have influenced Islam's position in modern culture. Aslan explores what the popular demonstrations pushing for democracy in the Middle East mean for the future of Islam in the region, how the internet and social media have affected Islam's evolution, and how the war on terror and Osama bin Laden's death have altered the geopolitical balance of power in the Middle East." That and so much more lie within these pages. We hope you will want to read, think, and discuss this valuable insight into the Islam faith.



Please join us! Coffee and snacks are always served.

Todd and Tyger Penson

## RUMMAGE SALE

### To Benefit High School Youth Mission

Saturday, March 14, 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The youth participating in the Sierra Service Project will be sponsoring the rummage sale, again this year! This is a perfect time to clean out your garage, closets and attic!

The south parking lot will be reserved for those who want to sell their own treasures. Reserve your 16' x 16' space for only \$15. The fee covers space rental only. You must provide all tenting, tables, setup needs, and booth signage. This event will be advertised via newspapers, flyers, posters and street signs to ensure a large turnout.

If you have unwanted treasures, but don't want to sell them yourself, you can donate them to the youth to sell. We will be accepting donations two days before the sale. Bring them to the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, March 12, or Friday, March 13, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Don't miss out. Reserve your space today, or mark your calendars to come and shop.



## Coffee Hosts Needed!



You are needed! Coffee hosts are needed to serve refreshments after the first two services. It's a great way to meet new people, especially the children, as they come through.

You will be trained and paired with an experienced host until you feel comfortable. Signing up for shifts is as easy as clicking a button or calling the office. If you are looking for a way to meet new people and support your church family through service, consider becoming a coffee host! If this is you, contact the church office (297-2062).

## Family Movie Time!

The Family Ministries committee invites you and your family to join us in the Fellowship Hall to watch the animated movie **Inside Out!** On Saturday, March 7. Bring your dinner, and enjoy watching as Joy, Sadness, Fear, Disgust, and Anger help 11 year-old Riley navigate the stress of moving across the Country.



You are invited to arrive at 5:00 p.m. and we will eat dinner as we enjoy the movie. Drinks and popcorn will be provided. All ages are welcome!

## SOUPer Bowl Collection

The youth stood in the patio, holding soup pots, on Feb. 2, to collect spare change for the **SOUPer Bowl** project. Through your generous donations, they collected \$728.52.



After the missions committee rounded that total up, with funds from the **Change the World** account, we were able to send \$1,000 to the Community Food Bank. One of the great things about working with the Souper Bowl organization, is that all funds stay local. Thank you for your support!

## THEOLOGY UNCORKED

St. Mark's Church and Society ministry encourages you to attend the following programs sponsored by Theology Uncorked! Mark your calendar! All programs are held at St Frances Cabrini Catholic Church Parish Hall (3201 East Presidio Rd):

**Monday, March 2, 2020, 6:30 p.m.**

Attorney Margo Cowan, immigration lawyer in Tucson, will discuss the new initiative Justice for ALL in Pima County.

**Monday, March 16, 2020, 6:30 p.m.**

Father James Martin, Jesuit theologian, will discuss LGBTQ issues in the Catholic Church via Skype.

## Drive Through Spaghetti Dinner

### Save the date!

St. Mark's United Methodist Women's Drive Through Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser will be held on **Friday, April 3** from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Pre-order forms will be available in an upcoming bulletin and **Messenger**.



Just drive into the south parking lot of the church on the evening of April 3, and pick up your meal without leaving your car. Meals are served in spill-proof containers and include salad, roll/butter and cookies. A vegetarian meal is also available on request. A meal is \$8.00 payable when you pick up your order.

Proceeds and donations support Missions in Tucson, the United States and around the world. If you have any questions, contact Kay Hayworth ([mkayhayworth@gmail.com](mailto:mkayhayworth@gmail.com)).

## Worldwide Christian Support Task Force Update

### U.S. State Department's 2018 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom – Myanmar (Burma)

The State Department's Report tracks countries to see if they respect religious freedom. Among the countries tracked are the six focus countries of the St. Mark's Task Force – India, Syria, Nigeria, Egypt, Myanmar and Mexico. This update is the fifth in our series and gives information on Myanmar.

Myanmar is currently number 19, on the 2020 Open Doors World Watch List, of the top 50 countries where it's most difficult to follow Jesus. This is a worsening from their 2015 ranking of 28,



The Myanmar constitution guarantees every citizen "the right to freely profess and practice religion subject to public order, morality or health and to the other provisions of this constitution." The law prohibits speech or acts insulting or defaming any religion or religious belief. In practice, the government often uses these laws to limit freedom of expression and press; and the deeply-seated prejudices within the nation, and the religious majority frequently lead to abuses and discrimination against religious minorities. The ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya Muslim population in 2017, which resulted in the displacement of more than 700,000 refugees to Bangladesh, is the most striking example of this treatment of religious minorities, yet other non-Buddhist minorities like Christians, Hindus, and other Muslim sects report incidents in which authorities unduly restricted religious practice, denied freedom of movement within the country, closed places of worship, denied or failed to approve permits for religious building, and repairs and discriminated in employment and housing.

The Christian minority in Myanmar is most prevalent in the states of Kachin, Chin, and Shan. Many of the areas within

these states are in conflict with the central government and the populace is faced with economic insecurities which result in insufficient food supplies and a lack of adequate health care. In addition, the military has selectively denied humanitarian access in areas of Kachin and Chin, leading to severe hardship on religious minorities and others. This denial of aid has resulted in increased tension within the communities mostly severely affected. Kachin Christians have also reported to the media and outside aid groups that the military was carrying out a campaign to eliminate them in a manner similar to the Muslims in Rakhine State. In areas in which the central government has no administrative control, authorities from the United Wa State Army have detained Christian leaders, destroyed churches, and otherwise interfered with Christian religious practices. Christians who convert from the predominate religion, Buddhism, often face threats to their well-being and find little support in their home communities, forcing them to relocate to friendlier communities.

Within Myanmar, some religious and civil society leaders continue to organize intra-faith and interfaith events and have developed mechanisms to monitor and counter hate speech. Both the United States and the International community continue to advocate for religious freedom and tolerance and raise concerns about discrimination against religious minorities and especially the treatment of Muslim and Christian minorities. In late 2018, the United States labeled Myanmar a "Country of Particular Concern" for severe violations of religious freedom and imposed appropriate sanctions against the government. It remains to be seen if this pressure will have an impact.

If you would like more information about persecuted Christians or to join the Worldwide Christian Support Task Force, email us at [christiansupport@umcstmarks.org](mailto:christiansupport@umcstmarks.org) or drop us a note at the church office.

## St. Mark's Monthly Missions Disbursements

### January

- \$2,500, Sierra Service Project supporting St. Mark's High School mission trip
- \$1,500, Military Bible Sticks

### February

- \$750, Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- \$500, Associate Pastors' Fund
- \$271.48, Youth SOUPer Bowl (to reach \$1,000)

## ODBALL Donations!

Last Sunday, we collected 84 boxes of cereal and over 525 granola bars for the Nash Elementary School monthly Mobile Food Pantry from your ODBALL donations!

Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 11, food provided by the Food Bank was distributed at the Mobile Food Pantry, along with some of the cereal and granola bars.

Served were 59 families (258 people) plus 15 bags that were filled for 5th graders of parents unable to come to the food pantry to take home. Thank you, St. Mark's, again for your generosity.



*Nash Neighbors Committee*

## Volunteer Opportunity



If you (by yourself or with friends) are looking for a wonderful hands-on way to volunteer in the community, here is a suggestion from one of our mission partners, Youth on Their Own (YOTO). Listed below are just a few of that organization's current needs, according to Kristin Ohman, Volunteer Manager.

### Baggin' Baggies

Larger donations are divided into smaller portions by volunteers in order to provide more students with essential items.

### Piece of Cake!

**Birthday Club:** Each enrolled student receives a hand-made birthday card containing a meaningful message handwritten and addressed by volunteers. Note: We're always looking for card makers.

### Take Note!

**Inspirational Stipend Note Writing:** Year-round, motivational notes are handwritten and decorated by volunteers to inspire our students to keep trying their best. These notes are attached to the students' monthly stipend checks for distribution by our Caring Couriers.

Contact Kristin (545-0560) for information about volunteer opportunities and guidelines. They would love to partner with you!



## Swinging @ AIDS Benefit Concert!

*Heather "Lil Mama" Hardy Band!*

TIHAN and Center for Health and Hope present: **Swinging @ AIDS** benefit concert on Friday, March 20, 7-9:00 p.m. at Monterey Court!

Proceeds support TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) programs helping people living with HIV live well. This event also raises emergency money to help AIDS ORPHANS in Kenya through the Center for Health and Hope. The first \$10,000 raised will be matched by generous donors! To order concert tickets (\$20), you may visit [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) Swinging@AIDS concert. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for optional dinner before the concert. To reserve a table, go to [montereycourtaz.com](http://montereycourtaz.com).

# Youth Ministry

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



## Events Calendar

### Middle and High School Students

**Sunday Feb. 23**

No Youth Group (Rodeo Weekend)

**Sunday, March 1**

Field Trip to Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Farm!

**Sunday, March 8**

A Spring Thing

**Sunday, March 15**

Roadrunner's Hockey Game!

## SOUPer BOWL of CARING

**Thank you** to everyone who helped collect money for the SOUPer Bowl of Caring on Feb. 2. You guys did an awesome job and between the generosity of our congregation and the Mission's committee, we were able to send \$1,000 to the Food Bank. St. Mark's Youth are SUPER amazing!



## HIGH SCHOOL

### Sippin' Over Scripture

What goes together better than PB&J? Caffeine and conversation, of course!



If you are in grades 9-12, you are invited on the second and fourth Sundays of each month to join in our Sippin' over Scriptures discussion group.

We head off campus to grab coffee and chat about faith, life, and where they intersect! Meet at the Wesley House at 4:00 p.m. and we will drive together.

### March Birthdays

March 3—**Snow Matika**

March 6—**Mosese Hala'ufia**

March 10—**Isaac Hyde**

March 12—**Benjamin Fish**



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### A Spring Thing?

It's sure warming up around here and spring is in the air. Come join us on March 8, for Middle School Youth Group where we will have fun with

**It's A Spring Thing!** Curious what that involves!? There's only one way to find out! Bounce on over to the Wesley House from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and find out!



## MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

### Field Trip!

On March 1, we will go hang out with some of God's creatures at Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Ranch! Come feed donkeys, goats, ostriches, and more with us! Note the extra time, to allow for the drive. We will meet at the Wesley House at 3:30 p.m., and be back by 6:30 p.m. Friends are always welcome (with a permission slip!). Cost is \$5, and scholarships are available.



### Go Roadrunners!

On March 15, come with your Youth Group friends to cheer on our local hockey team, the Tucson Roadrunners as they take on the Texas Stars!



Friends are always welcome, with permission slip! Meet at the Wesley House at 3:00 p.m. Cost is only \$5! Scholarships are available.

Youth news continued on page 8



## Youth Mission Trips

Summer seems so far away, but here at St. Mark's we are already getting ready for our summer mission trips!

● **Middle School Mission** will be held May 26-29 this year. It is an awesome opportunity for students who have completed grades 6-8 to get together, grow, serve, and most importantly, have fun!

● **Sierra Service Project** is for students who have finished grades 8-12. This year, we will be working in Lake County, in northern California, building tiny cottages for permanent supportive housing. Depending on flight information, we will most likely be gone July 10-18. This is a very exciting opportunity! Sign up now to reserve your spot! See Kim or Rachel for questions.

## What IS Lent?

You might hear a lot of people talking about Lent over the next few weeks. Lent is the 40 days (minus Sundays) that come before Easter. The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, which this year is on February 26. Sometime people choose to give something up during Lent, to help them focus on God. Other people choose to add in a spiritual practice, to help them be closer to God. While you don't HAVE to do either of these things, I encourage you to think about trying one this year.



## Events Calendar—PreTeens for 4th and 5th graders!

**Sunday, Feb. 23**

No PreTeen Group (Rodeo Weekend)

**Sunday, March 1**

Time TBA

Meet at the Movies

**Sunday, March 8**

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Rootin' Tootin' Root Beer Floats and Games

**Sunday, March 15**

4:00-6:00 p.m.

St. Patty's Celebration- All Things Green!

## Join Us for a Movie!



PreTeen Group is going to the movies! On March 1, we will meet at AMC Foothills movie theater to watch Sonic the Hedgehog together. Admission is only \$5 and friends are welcome. Time will be announced.

## Rootin' Tootin' Good Time

On March 8, all 4th and 5th grade students are invited for a rootin' tootin' good time. Come have a delicious root beer float and play some awesome games!



## St. Patty's Day

Do YOU have the luck o' the Irish? Come celebrate St. Patty's Day with your church friends on March 15, and have fun with all things green. It's going to be awesome!

## Community Food Bank News!



It was a great day at the Food Bank last month. We had a wonderful crew of volunteers—old and new alike.

If you are looking for an opportunity to do missions work for the church working at the Food Bank is a great start. It only takes a few hours each month and you may come as your schedule permits. St. Mark's future trips to the Food Bank are: Feb. 22; March 28; April 25; May 23; and June 27!

We meet at church, in the north parking lot, about 7:45 a.m. then either carpool to the Food Bank, or use the church van if there are ten riders to make our 8:30 a.m. shift. Make sure you wear closed-toe shoes, a long-sleeve shirt, and bring some water. For questions, or to sign up please contact KJ Naae (see directory).



## Coffee Sale This Sunday

St. Mark's Agua Prieta Task Force will sell one-pound bags of 100% Arivaca, fair-trade, organic coffee on Sunday, Feb. 23., in the courtyard between services.

All proceeds go to Café la Colonia, who produces this wonderful coffee, and is an enterprise of Fuenta de Vida Methodist Church in Agua Prieta, MEX, a long-standing mission partnership of St. Mark's and several other Desert Southwest Conference churches.



You may purchase the following selection of coffee for \$10 a bag: Medium or dark roast; regular or decaffeinated; ground or whole bean. For information, please contact Robert Kittrell (see directory).

## Desert Southwest Conference Adult Mission Trip—Feb. 28–March 2



Whether you've ever helped build a home on a mission project or not, here is a wonderful opportunity to do just that later in February. We at St. Mark's will form a group of adults to join others from the UMC Desert Southwest Conference for a three-day home build in Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point), Mexico. This is a great way to give back, share the love of Christ, and meet new friends.

Your St. Mark's contacts **Jeff Atwater** (see directory) or **Ron Schindler** (see directory) would be happy to answer questions about this trip. For more details visit: <https://dscumc.org/blog/2019/09/20/2020-conference-wide-3-day-mission-trip-to-puerto-penasco-mexico/>

# DONATION Depot

Each week, St. Mark's collects items for its partner organizations.

Donations may be left at the "depot" in the courtyard on Sunday mornings:

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

## 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 and leave a prayer on our prayer wall.

*Peter Booth  
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 of Marian Shultis who passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020. We will share memorial service details as they become available.
- Julie Eblen, her daughters, Brenna and Hannah, and family on the passing of Julie's mother, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020. We will share memorial service details as they become available.

## LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Please keep these people in your prayers. Email additions or updates to [messenger@umcstmarks.org](mailto:messenger@umcstmarks.org).

**Hank Bautzmann**, son of Nancy Bautzmann  
**Alex Boettcher**, grandson of Carla and Paul Boettcher  
**Christian Bowers**, grandson of Doug & Charlotte Bowers  
**Jon Chytka**, nephew of Donna Severson  
**Zachary Dojaquez**, grandson of Donna Severson  
**Patrick Emmett**, son of Julie Wiens  
**Mike Freeman**, son of Ken & Ann Freeman  
**Garrett Geer**, grandson of Ellen Wise  
**Matthew Hughey**, son of Juliee & Billy Morrison and grandson of Joyce Flick  
**Rachel Kester**, daughter of Don & Ruth Kester  
**Don Lauver**, Son-in-law of Linda Connolly  
**Sam Lennarson**, grandson of John & Sherri Lennarson

**Christopher Lewis**, grandson of Donald Lewis  
**Chad Long**, grandson of Pat Long  
**Jake Newton**, son of Robert & Cheri Newton  
**John O'Regan**, husband of Ashley O'Regan and grandson-in-law of Janet Krug  
**Brian Osborn**, pastor in the DSW Conference  
**William Putt**, son of Harold & Susan Putt  
**Geoffrey Shafe**, grandson of Mary Langemeier  
**Jason Smith**, grandson of Jerry & Judy Smith  
**Clint Staschke**, son-in-law of Cliff & June Young  
**Michael and Karisa Szczygiel**, daughter and son-in-law of Joyce Flick  
**Brianna Walker**, granddaughter of Barbara Fradenburgh; niece of Joan Fradenburgh



## Altar Flowers

One of the ways that our congregation serves the church is to provide altar flowers for Sunday worship. This year, 2020, there are still a number of openings for altar flowers. Perhaps you would like to dedicate flowers in honor or memory of a loved one? Take a look at the list of dates below. If you wish to dedicate flowers for one or more of these Sundays, simply sign up on the board in the Sanctuary narthex.

Altar Flower Openings:

April 5, 19, 26;  
May 17, 31;  
July 19, 26;  
August 2, 16, 25;  
October 10.



# Calendar Notes

## Sunday, February 23

### New Members Join St. Mark's

### 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

## Monday, February 24

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

## Tuesday, February 25

9:00 a.m. UMW Craft Circle, Rm. 17/18  
6:00 p.m. Mark-a-ritas, Fellowship Hall

## Wednesday, February 26

### Ash Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Imposition of Ashes, Sanctuary  
10:30 a.m. Chronic Pain Group, Library  
Noon BULLETIN DEADLINE  
5:45 p.m. Soul Station Dinner, Fellowship Hall  
6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship, Sanctuary

## Thursday, February 27

6:30 p.m. Technology Committee, Conf. Rm.

## Friday, February 28

7:00 p.m. UA Symphonic Choir Concert, Sanctuary

## Saturday, February 29

9:00 a.m. Faith Rock Workshop, Rm. 8/9  
1:30 p.m. Jessica Bennett Memorial, Sanctuary  
3:00 p.m. Primavera, Kitchen

## Sunday, March 1

### First Sunday of Lent

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
9:30 a.m. First Sunday Fellowship, Rm. 8/9  
\*9:45 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
9:45 a.m. Lent Alive!, Fellowship Hall  
10:00 a.m. Dove Mountain Worship  
11:15 a.m. The Gathering, Fellowship Hall  
4:00 p.m. PreTeen Group, Off Campus  
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Off Campus  
4:00 p.m. Holy Yoga, Rm. 17/18

*\*This service is livestreamed.*



St. Mark's UMC  
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#### Email:

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#### 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.

## Thanks for All You Do!

Over 140 volunteers turned out on Sunday, in celebration of our VOLUNTEER ROUNDUP! If you weren't able to join us for the BEST IN THE WEST celebration, we want you to know that we appreciate all our volunteers and hope that we see you next year!



*St. Mark's Staff*



## Reflections

### Cry of Our Hearts

Sometimes when my heart cries out to God, it is in pure joy. Like, when a child has sweet or amusing wisdom to share at Children's Time, my heart sings an uplifted praise of "thanks" to God. Sometimes my heart—cries to God are in anguish, like when I hear of someone's painful medical diagnosis or deep struggles. Oh God, my God...my heart cries.

When I began to plan for this year's **Words for Life** worship series, words for the season of Lent seemed to come in pairs, such as sadness and joy or repentance and grace. These pairs are not exactly opposites. Rather, one may lead to another or follow one another—we may experience God's grace when we repent or turn fully to God, for example.

As I thought about these pairs of words, the phrase "cry of our hearts" kept coming to me, as if these words were part of a deep cry of our hearts to God in the season of Lent. Not necessarily cries of joy or anguish, but heartfelt longings to speak deeply to God in Lent. The words of the song, "Cry of My Heart" kept coming to me:

"It is the cry of my heart to follow you. It is the cry of my heart to be close to you. It is the cry of my heart to follow all of the days of my life." (**The Faith We Sing**, #2165)

So during Lent we look at pairs of words that represent the cries of our hearts and take us to the places where God

brings hope and healing. Lent gives us the opportunity to look within ourselves, finding those places where we may be separate from God and others and draw closer in prayer, worship and study. It is my hope that our worship focus "Cry of Our Hearts" will help us do that. I hope you will join us for worship and study.

A couple of updates:

- Many thanks to all those who participated in the Input Project in late January/early February. The team—Susan Gerstad, Brenda Hunter, Dick Williams, Margaret Synhorst—is working to compile the input and will be making a summary report to the Covenant Council in March. Then the summary will be shared with the congregation.
- Pray for General Conference 2020, which will be held in Minneapolis, May 5-15. During General Conference, legislation related to the future of the United Methodist Church will be considered and voted upon. No decisions have been made yet, so prayer is our main task right now.
- On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, you can receive ashes and blessing in the Sanctuary any time between 6:00 and 9:00 a.m. Then worship will be held in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m., with Holy Communion and the chance to receive ashes.

*Blessings, Sharon*