

Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

Volume 60, Number 2
February 5, 2020



Need a Little More Elbowroom to Clap Your Hands?

St. Mark's is excited to share with you a new worship opportunity for the 2020 Lenten Season. (Woot-Woot! Hurray God! Worship is Awesome!)

- NEW! Lent Alive! Modern worship service at 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for March 1—April 12 We're trying this out!
- 11:15 a.m. Gathering Worship service moves to Fellowship Hall for the same dates (March 1-April 12)
- Praise Band and singers will lead music for both worship services
- Sermon will be streamed in and shown on the TV monitor at 9:45 a.m.
- Sermon will be done in person at 11:15 a.m.
- Communion at both services on the first Sunday of the month
- The order of worship will be the same for both 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Why are we adding an additional service at 9:45 a.m.? We want to give people another worship option at our main worship time – 9:45 a.m. Also, we are full in the main Sanctuary this time of year and want to make room for more!

Why are we moving The Gathering into the Fellowship Hall? Because we want to spend more time in fellowship and worship and less time moving the equipment.

Will this be a permanent change? Nope, this is just for seven weeks during Lent—March 1 through Easter Sunday.

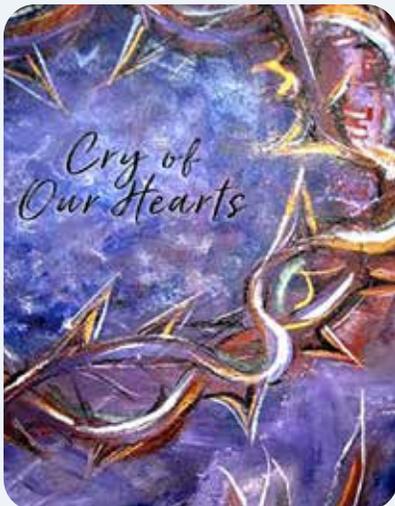
How can I help? In so many ways! Greeting, ushering, setup, clean-up, sound/video tech! Please contact Pastor Stuart (stuart@umcstmarks.org) and let him know that you would like to serve in this new worship opportunity. You can volunteer for one, two, or all seven worship services!

Can I be a part of the music at either service? Sure! Please contact Cathy Harris-Herchenroeder (cathy@umcstmarks.org) and let her know how you would like to participate, she can give you all the details!

Does this affect our 8:15 and 9:45 a.m. traditional services? No, these will continue as usual in the main Sanctuary, as will our Dove Mountain 10:00 a.m. service.

Questions? Contact Pastor Stuart (stuart@umcstmarks.org), Pastor Sharon (sharon@umcstmarks.org) or Cathy Harris-Herchenroeder (cathy@umcstmarks.org)

Ash Wednesday is February 26!



Lent is the season that leads up to Easter, 40 days (not including Sundays) of preparation. This year, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 26.

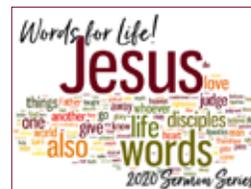
On that day, the Sanctuary will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. so you can receive ashes and a prayer from Pastor Sharon. A 6:30 p.m. worship service in the Sanctuary will also lead us into the season of Lent. All are welcome. Mark your calendar!

See page three for activities and spiritual growth Lenten studies scheduled during this season of reflection.

New Sermon Series Begins February 9

Three Simple Rules "Do no harm." "Do good." "Stay in love with God." Those were John Wesley's simple rules!

On Sunday, Feb. 9, we begin a three-week sermon series that focuses on these three sets of words.

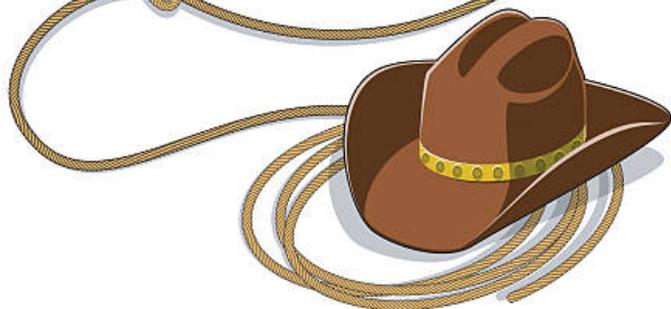


This is part of our year-long theme of **Words for Life**. Join us in worship.

**ST. MARK'S
VOLUNTEER ROUNDUP
HONORING THE BEST IN THE WEST
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020
12:30 P.M. — WEST PATIO**

On Sunday, Feb. 16, we'll be rounding up the best volunteers in the west for a western style hoedown! The party gets underway at 12:30 p.m. Y'all are invited to grab some good grub, and celebrate our St. Mark's volunteers. **If you volunteer in any way**—folding, stuffing, ushering, singing, teaching, serving, hosting, to name a few—the church staff would be much obliged if you would join us for this special western-style **Volunteer Roundup** so we can show our appreciation for all that you do!

Please RSVP by Feb. 13 to:
church office (297-2062) or
info@umcstmarks.org



**Rainbow Fellowship
Loves its Allies!**

St. Mark's Rainbow Fellowship Loves its Allies! Since the Rainbow Fellowship was started, a number of folks in our congregation have asked if they might join us to express their support for the LGBTQ community.



Now's your chance to do so! At our meeting on Sunday, Feb 16, at 8:30 a.m., in the church Library we'd love to welcome our devoted allies to join us for an hour of fellowship and sharing.

Please contact Melinda Sims (see directory). If you have any questions and to RSVP.

Update On Input Project



The deadline for submission of articles for this *Messenger* was before the completion of all the listening groups associated with the Input Project. Even though the project is not yet complete, we wanted to let you know we have seen many examples of love, grace, and patience.

First of all, we appreciate everyone who took the time to come, to speak, and to listen. Conversations around LGBTQ+ matters have the potential to be emotional, but you remembered we are all family, and worked to listen to each other with courtesy and respect. We want to especially acknowledge the people who discovered that they were presenting a minority opinion within their group. It is hard to express a lone opinion, but it was very important that we heard examples of the complete range of thoughts represented in our congregation. Thank you. It can also be hard to hear things that conflict with one's own closely held beliefs, and we appreciate the effort made to listen with the heart as well as with the ears.

Secondly, this project was practically an all-church task. We want to thank the administrative staff who came to our aid by helping us with paperwork, room reservation and setup, and just general "Did you remember to..?" Rev. Ragland helped us keep our focus, and along with Margret Synhorst, provided excellent training for the shepherds and scribes. None of this would have happened without all of the people who were willing to serve as shepherds and scribes, making our 38 listening sessions possible. Your shepherds and scribes included:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Lezley Barth | Ainsley Legner |
| Don Booth | Sherrri Lennarson |
| Judy Boroto | Julie Mack |
| Ken Dunlap | Kathy Narney |
| Tom Ellis | Susan Putt |
| Alberta Farnsworth | Donna Reed |
| Sandi Heilman | LuAnn Roberts |
| Marci Hill | Marge Sogn |
| Diane James | Margaret Synhorst |
| Pat Kittrell | Linda Walker |
| Robert Kittrell | |

Finally, we are grateful to Jane and Jerry Bartow for demonstrating the spiritual gift of hospitality by supplying refreshments for all our sessions.

After completion of the listening sessions and compilation of the answers, we look forward to sharing a summary of the results with you.

*Susan Gerstad, Brenda Hunter,
and Dick Williams*

Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

Lent begins Wednesday, Feb. 26, but Lenten activities are planned to help you prepare for this season.

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.

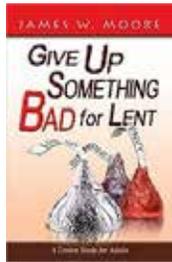
Led by Margaret Synhorst, Amy Gosla

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

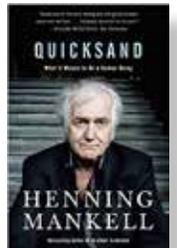
This group will study: **Entering the Passion of Jesus** by Amy-Jill Levine. Amy-Jill tells us how the story raised ethical and spiritual questions and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. Each session will guide us through the last days before the crucifixion and will examine what is at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

Open Minds Book Study

Led by Todd and Tyger Penson

Have you thought about adding something new to your schedule? We would like to invite you to come to our next book study. Feb. 21 at 9:30 a.m. will be the next gathering of Open Minds Book Study in the Library on the St. Mark's campus.

We will discuss the autobiographical book **QUICKSAND: What It Means to Be a Human Being** by Henning Mankell. You may have heard of Mankell as a mystery writer and that he was. However, in 2014, Mankell learned that he was dying of lung cancer. This farewell book is a result of his life-long reflection about life, a tribute to the extraordinary but fleeting human journey that delivers both boundless opportunity and crucial responsibility. Join us as we discuss this evocative work. Think about what kind of book you would write, or dance or art you would create, or song you would compose, if this would be your last. What would you want the world to know?



Then, if you are ordering books ahead, the selection for March 27 will be **No god but God: the Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam** by Reza Aslan. For April 24, we will read **The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics** written by Daniel James Brown.

Please join us! coffee and snacks are always served.

Todd and Tyger Penson

Adult Spiritual Growth Retreat Another Great Success!

The Redemptorist Renewal Center was once again the venue for the Adult Spiritual Growth retreat on Jan. 25. It was the perfect setting for a day of reflection on *How to Build a Better Life Story*.



Thirty-one persons came to listen to Dr. Gretchen Hegeman discuss ways in which we can look at our history, our experiences, our lives, and our hopes by making a personal timeline.



The discussions, reflections, food and fellowship made for a thoughtful and productive day of personal growth.



Thank you, Gretchen!

Grace Circle

St. Mark's United Methodist Women (UMW) Grace Circle will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 18, in the Library. Please join us at 9:15 a.m. for devotions. We will carpool to Sister Jose Women's Center to provide assistance with a project. Donations of slightly used spring clothing or dye free, fragrance free detergent would be appreciated. If you cannot make the meeting and want to donate items, please leave them in the church office marked UMW Grace Circle for Sister Jose Women's Center.

All are welcome, you do not have to be a member at St. Mark's or the United Methodist Women. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Hunter (241-3864).



Animal Ministry News

The Animal Ministry Team (AMT) will have a busy March and wanted to share these dates with the congregation in advance.



WOOFSTOCK and Adopt-a-thon

The AMT has again been invited to offer a Blessing of the Animals from the Reid Park bandshell at the start of this annual event (sponsored by *The Tucson Dog* magazine) on Sunday, March 8. Following the opening prayer at 10:15 a.m., team members will be available to bless individual animals and share a gift from St. Mark's.

Parking Lot Sale

For the fourth consecutive year, the Animal Ministry Team plans to rent space from the youth and participate in the annual Parking Lot (Rummage) Sale. While the date has not been set as of this writing, it is expected to be a Saturday morning in March. Funds earned by the AMT will be used to support local animal welfare needs.

Pet Memorial Service

The AMT will be offering this annual opportunity to remember and honor pets no longer with us through a special service in the church Sanctuary on **Sunday, March 29**, at 3:00 p.m. It will include a video montage of pet photos and an opportunity to light candles in their memories. Share the date with anyone in the community who might be interested, and please watch for upcoming details.

For more information, please contact Sandi Heilman (297-8400) or animalministry@umcstmarks.org.

United Methodist Women Meet on Feb. 11!

St. Mark's United Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 11, in the Library. Please join us at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments and the meeting at 10:00 a.m.



The program will be provided by the following St. Mark's ministries: Ties that Bind; Quilters; Prayer Shawl ministry.

Everyone is welcome to attend and learn more about these caring ministries. You do not have to be a member of St. Mark's or the United Methodist Women. Childcare may be arranged for the meeting by contacting the church office (297-2062) on or before Feb. 7.

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

University of Arizona Symphonic Choir in 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.

Craft Circle Meeting!



On Tuesday, Feb. 25, the United Methodist Women will meet in Rm. 17/18 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Everyone is invited to join our Craft Circle as your schedule allows. Bring your own craft to work on, or come help others make crafts for the UMW craft fairs in Nov. and Dec.

We are looking for any unfinished projects, batting and stuffing, quilt tops or pieces, or any craft and sewing supplies. We are always accepting any donations for our projects.

Contact Bonnie Sargent (see directory) if you have questions or need donations picked up.

Christmas Offering!

We are pleased to report that the 2019 Christmas offering raised **\$20,083**. Fifty percent goes to the **Nash Neighbors** Fund, which provides a wide range of support to Nash Elementary School. The other half supported a **Rise Against Hunger** event where over 150 volunteers packed 20,000 meals on Jan. 5, 2020. Thank you for your generous contributions!



Lenten Devotional

Don't forget to submit your contribution for St. Mark's Lenten Devotional. Submissions can be original or from another source (please cite appropriately). They can be 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 especially appropriate (such as an anniversary of an event), that date can be requested. These request will be granted on a first come, first served basis.



Preferably, typed submissions can be sent via email to Susan Putt (susan@umcstmarks.org), or handwritten submissions can be dropped off at the church office. These contributions 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 that people can have it for Ash Wednesday. 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).

Coffee Hosts Needed!

We are looking to train coffee hosts to serve refreshments once a month after the first two services.



If you are looking for a way to support your church family through service, please consider becoming a coffee host! If you can help, please contact Tricia in the church office (297-2062).

Thanks to the generosity of St. Mark's congregation with their pledges, the Missions Committee is pleased to be able to support 29 different partner organizations with our budget of over \$54,000.

We are also able to contribute to various needs that arise during the year that are not in our budget through our Change the World Fund.

Watch this space monthly to read about the ways that your mission dollars help support our local community and efforts worldwide.

*Pat Kittrell
Chair, Missions Committee*

Thanks for Attending Missions Fair



On Jan. 12, we hosted 24 mission partner and ministry organizations in our Fellowship Hall. Everyone who attended had a chance to meet representatives from the groups and hear about the work they are doing in the community and the world which we help support.

This congregation shows generosity in many ways: monies given in the budget (10% of the budget goes to missions) and special offerings, donations given to weekly or special collections and the hours devoted to hands-on mission opportunities. It was a wonderful way to celebrate all that we do to care for those who need it.

January Missions Disbursement

\$1,500 to the Military Bible Sticks Mission Project

Bible Sticks are small, battery-operated listening devices prerecorded with the NIV New Testament and selected Psalms, included. They are available to any active duty military personnel through their unit chaplain. Service members can have this important faith resource with them at all times, and is especially helpful for those going into combat. Family members are also eligible for the units.



This year your generosity has allowed the Missions Committee to purchase 60 units at \$25 per unit. AND, during the month of January 2020, Bible Sticks had a matching funds donor, doubling the effectiveness of our contribution to 120 units. Thank you for your continued support.

*Ellen Beene
Missions Liaison*

Newcomer's Day!

We need meal preparers for the Primavera Men's Shelter. The sign-up sheet located in the narthex of the church has a few open dates. Don't be deterred if you've never done it before.



This May, meal preparation will be **Newcomer's Day** and you will be guided by a "pro" through the process of purchasing, cooking, and serving a meal for 100 homeless men. Get your friends or family to join you, or if you are on a church committee ask them to help. There is also a St. Mark's Cookbook of menu suggestions and recipes used for Primavera meals.

Even though the church kitchen will be shut down from April through early fall, this will not stop us. I've prepared the meal in my own home many times. I can guide you through what you may think is a daunting task. For about \$200 and five to six hours, you can shop, cook, and serve. The Missions Committee is able to reimburse you or your team, if needed. Please call Casey Compernelle (see directory) for information or to answer questions.

*Casey Compernelle
Missions Liaison*



Tons of Thanks!

The total amount of non-perishable food donated by our congregation, plus the fresh produce from Market on the Move added up to **10,838 pounds** of food donated to ICS (Interfaith Community Services) during 2019. That is over five tons of food, outstanding St. Mark's!

Youth Ministry

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



Events Calendar

Middle and High School Students

Sunday, Feb. 9

4:00-6:00 p.m.
Middle School Movie Night, Wesley House
4:00-6:00 p.m.
High School Sippin' Over Scripture, off campus

Sunday, Feb. 16

4:00-6:00 p.m.
Progressive Game Night
Middle School and High School

Sunday, Feb. 23

No Youth Group (Rodeo Weekend)

Sunday, March 1

3:30-6:30
Field Trip to the Ostrich Farm
Middle School and High School

Progressive Game Night!



We have all heard of a game night, right? They are super fun! The problem is, we don't have enough time to play them ALL! So....we have the perfect solution.

On Feb. 16, come join us for **progressive game night**, where you get to play all of the games available! Don't get too attached though, because when the timer goes off, you race to the next game and pick up where the previous people left off!

Road 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!)

HIGH SCHOOL

Thanks to everyone who came to our one-day snow retreat on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day! We had such a great time searching for snow up on Mt. Lemmon, and playing in it when we found it. Even better was how quickly we got home to warm up!



Sippin' Over Scripture



Our Sippin' Over Scripture group has been having so many amazing, wonderful discussions. Sometimes we have a set conversation starter, and sometimes we just talk about what is on our hearts and minds.

If you haven't joined us yet, you are invited to come on Feb. 9! Meet at the Wesley House at 4:00 p.m. and we will go together to grab coffee and chat.

February Birthdays

Feb. 6—**Willow Wernett**
Feb. 7—**Eli Mosher**
Feb. 15—**Tyler Drescher**
Feb. 25—**Lisa Foree**
(Youth Sunday School Teacher)
Feb. 26—**Meghan Buckner**



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Movie Night!

On Feb. 9, come hang out and watch a movie in the Wesley House. We will provide the movie and the popcorn, you bring a pillow and a friend.



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.



Events Calendar—PreTeens

Sunday, Feb. 9

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Love One Another (Valentines)

Sunday, Feb. 16

4:00-6:00

Rodeo Activity

Sunday, Feb. 23

No PreTeen group (Rodeo Weekend)

Love One Another



We hear a lot that we are supposed to love one another. What better time to practice that than February, for Valentine's Day!? Come see how fun Valentine's activities can be while we love one another on Feb. 9. See you there!

Rodeo Activity

Yee Haw! Where else in the country do you get a four-day weekend to make sure everyone has a chance to go to the Rodeo! I love Tucson. Let's kick off Rodeo week right on Feb. 16, with some rowdy rodeo adventures with your church family.



Worldwide Christian Support Task Force Update

U.S. State Department's 2018 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom—Egypt

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. Marks Task Force – Nigeria, Egypt, India, Myanmar, Syria, and Mexico. This update is the fourth in our series and gives information on Egypt.



For many years, churches in Egypt needed to be licensed. Approval sometimes takes years and only a small percent are licensed. The license is a little like a building permit in the U.S. because the churches must meet rules for construction as well as other standards. Over the years, there have been different versions of these laws. In past, the list identified churches to be attacked. Now, being licensed gives the churches protection by the government. However, a law called the "non-governmental organization" (NGO) also limits what churches can do and how they work with outside groups. For example, working with unlicensed outside relief groups or just surveying membership can cause a church to lose license.

The task force has reported on closed churches, attacks on churches, and on individuals. Past governments have been very anti-Christian. But it is improving.

More recently, courts gave death sentences to several people who killed Christians. In April, a military court sentenced 36 people to death for Coptic church bombings between 2016 and 2017 in Cairo, Alexandria, and Tanta.

In January, top Islamic leaders included greeting Christians on Coptic Christmas as an act of righteousness. During the same month, the ministry of religious endowments called the protection of churches "as legitimate as defending mosques," and said that those who died in the defense of a church were "martyrs." This past year, this same ministry called routing out terrorists a top priority.

In December, President al-Sisi created an agency to fight strife toward sects including Christians. On August 30, President al-Sisi appointed two Christian governors for the first time since April 2011. The new Governor of Damietta was the country's first female Christian governor.

In meetings with Egyptian officials, the U.S. representatives stressed our commitment to religious freedom. Key issues included attacks on Christians, recognition of Baha'is and Jehovah's Witnesses, the rights of Shia Muslims to perform religious rituals publicly, and abuses from giving religious or national identity on official documents.

If you would like more information about persecuted Christians, or to join St. Mark's Christian Persecution Task Force, email us at christiansupport@umcstmarks.org or drop us a note at the church office.

Market on the Move

St. Mark's Missions Committee hosts **Market on the Move** on the first Saturday of the month in the south parking lot. Market on the Move is a food distribution program that keeps excess produce out of the landfill and into the hands of the hungry! For \$10 you can carry away 60 pounds of produce. Keep some and give some to friends, neighbors, family, or the needy and food banks.



St. Mark's will host Market on the Move on the first Saturday for the remaining months: March 7, April 4, May 2, and June 6. Volunteers are needed from 7:00 a.m. to about 10:30 a.m. If you come, wear closed-toe shoes, bring a hat or sunscreen, and perhaps something to drink.

Please contact Lenna Burnham (see directory) for more information.

Another Successful Sidewalk Sunday School

To the generous congregation of St. Mark's, I want to express a heartfelt thanks! Sidewalk Sunday School was again a big success. With the help of our Green Valley partners, we collected 39 gift cards and 146 gift bags. During the holiday, when you are asked to do so much, you came through for the underprivileged children and the Sidewalk Sunday School with a generosity of spirit that is unmatched.

Ellen Beene
Missions Liaison

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



Empty Bowls

Chinese Cultural Center, March 7

Empty Bowls, a fundraiser to fight hunger and feed hope, is an event benefiting Interfaith Community Services (ICS). Local potters create and donate beautiful handmade bowls that act as a reminder of all of the empty bowls here in Tucson.

Attend the event where over 1,000 people dine on soup, bread, and desserts provided by local restaurants. Enjoy musical entertainment, and take home a beautiful bowl (included with the price of admission). **Be sure to BUY TICKETS ASAP** as they sell quickly!

March 7 – 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - \$25 per person
Chinese Cultural Center, 1288 W. River Road.
Ticketing: <https://one.bidpal.net/emptybowls20/ticketing>
Information: <https://icstucson.org>

Agua Prieta Coffee Sale

St. Mark's Agua Prieta Task Force will sell one pound bags of 100% Arivaca, fair-trade, organic coffee on **Sunday, Feb. 23**. Look for the table in the courtyard. For just \$10 a bag you may choose from Medium or Dark Roast coffee, in whole bean or ground, regular or decaffeinated coffee.

All proceeds go to Cafe la Colonia an enterprise of Fuente de Vida (Methodist) church in Agua Prieta, Mexico. Fuente de Vida church has been a long-standing mission project of St. Mark's.

If you have questions, contact Robert Kittrell (see directory).



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. You may also, visit our Prayer Room on campus 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:

- Nancy Gobrecht and her family, on the loss of her husband, Bud, who passed away, Jan. 6.
A memorial service is scheduled on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and reception in Fellowship Hall.
- Jan Webster and her family, on the loss of her husband, Dave, who passed away, Jan. 15.
A memorial service is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 20, at 1:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary and reception (off campus).
- Becky Strain and her family, on the loss of her daughter, Jessica Bennett.
A memorial service is scheduled Feb. 29, at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and reception in Fellowship Hall.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Please keep these people in your prayers. Email additions or updates to 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 9

Congregational Open House, Fellowship Hall

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
*9:45 a.m. Traditional Service, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Dove Mountain Worship
12:30 p.m. Membership 101, Library
4:00 p.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. PreTeens, Rm. 8/9
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Wesley House

Monday, February 10

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

Tuesday, February 11

9:30 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.

Wednesday, February 12

10:30 a.m. Chronic Pain Group, 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

Thursday, February 13

Noon MESSENGER DEADLINE
6:00 p.m. Trustees, Conf. Rm.

Sunday, February 16

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
12:30 p.m. Volunteer Roundup - Appreciation Luncheon
4:00 p.m. PreTeen or Youth Group
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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(520) 297-2062

Email:

info@umcstmarks.org

Website:

www.umcstmarks.org

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Sharon Ragland

Associate Pastors:

Stuart Salvatierra
Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald

Wednesday Worship

Soul Station

Dinner - 5:45 p.m.
Music/Programs
6:15-7:15 p.m.

Sunday Worship

Magee Rd.

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

DOVE MOUNTAIN

Moore Rd.

10:00 a.m.

The words "thank you" cannot begin to convey the depth of my gratitude for the immense outpouring of love and care from all of you, my faith family, following the death of my daughter, Jessica. Both Harry and I have been overwhelmed by the many, many cards and other expressions of support. We know that we are surrounded in prayer and feel absolutely blanketed in the warmth of your loving concern. You are a blessing. With love Becky Strain

Thank you so much for the amazing memorial and birthday party for Julie yesterday. It went perfectly and helped us feel like we sent her home in a way that would have made her proud. We will always miss everything about her but now we know she was celebrated properly. Thank you, again (Pastor Sharon), for everything you and St. Mark's have done for the Perkins family since we started attending in 1984. It has been a source of joy and peace for all of us. Mat Perkins

2020 South District Leadership Event

Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020

10:00 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E Speedway Blvd, Tucson

Featuring Rev. David McPherson
Registration is \$20.00.

Registration and information:
<https://dscumc.org/event/2020-south-district-leadership-event/>

Messenger Deadlines!

Reminder! There will be two newsletters published in February. The next issue publishes on February 19. The deadline to submit information is Thursday Feb. 13.

Please send information and photos to 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 hover over RESOURCES, then click NEWSLETTER.

Address Service Requested

Reflections

“Be still and know that I am God.” —Psalm 46:10

How can we rely on the presence and steadiness of God in the midst of daily demands, ever-present political news, uncertain times in the United Methodist Church, and our own inner anxieties? We can stop for a moment. Look around. Listen. Appreciate the beauty of the place in which we live (even on a cold morning!). Breathe deeply and give thanks for life and breath. Let a chorus of a favorite hymn run through our ears or maybe even sing it out loud. Mine is a Taize’ chorus: *“Come and fill our hearts with your peace, you alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Amen.”* And a reminder of a years-long mantra from Julian of Norwich: *“All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”*

Before long it will be the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 26. This year, I’ve been challenged by a book I’m reading to work to give up something for Lent that drags me down or is even harmful. This is not like giving up chocolate or red meat for Lent in order to feel the pain of that and thus draw closer to God. No, this is about taking stock of life and asking God to help me give up one or more of these: fear, negative thinking, angry words, or.... You get the idea.

And, the idea is work with God to reduce or remove those from life, not just for a season, but for always. Now there’s a Lenten challenge! More later.

Shifting subjects: I want to sincerely thank the leaders of the Input Project—Susan Gerstad, Dick Williams, Brenda Hunter and Margaret Synhorst for their tireless work in planning and carrying out this listening project.

You will hear a summary in a few weeks of the thoughts expressed by 299 people who participated in the sessions held from Jan. 18–Feb. 1. Thanks to all those who took the risk to be part of sharing their thoughts and listening to one another on LGBTQ+ matters and the UMC.

Thanks also to those who are working on ***Helping Hands, Nourishing Hearts***, our Kitchen Remodel Campaign, which launches on Sunday, Feb. 16. Watch for a mailing about this. We hope you will participate in making our kitchen more safe and up to date.

Stay warm! Stay close to God. Let songs and hymns and Scripture draw us close to God so that we can daily love and serve the one who has created us out of great love and gives us life every day. Thanks be to you, O God.

Blessings, Sharon

