

Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

Volume 60, Number 6
April 22 2020



Send Us Your GOOD NEWS Stories!

Could you use a little good news? As church people, we are meant to feel joy and celebration at all times. Wouldn't it bring joy, and perhaps inspiration, to hear about good things that are being done for others in this time of upheaval in all our lives? We are also charged to be servants. But what can we do?



Please consider writing a paragraph or two about something you are doing that serves others ... (or perhaps something you've heard that others are doing.)

Send your GOOD NEWS STORIES to Charlotte Bowers (see directory). We will choose one or two of the MANY submitted to include in the *Messenger*, or the Pastor's Friday email, or during *Who's With Me Tonight?* or during Sunday worship! Good news, let's get it out there!

Are you checking on a neighbor? And regularly writing personal notes of love and encouragement and mailing them or emailing or texting? Making food for others? Are you part of a group sewing face masks or gowns? There are so many possibilities. Have you reached out and gotten others involved or organized a group project yourself? You may feel not only joy in these Stories of Good, but be inspired to do something yourself. "Hey! I could do that piece, or that one, or get something started." Get up! Turn off the TV! ☺

Questions You are Asking....

Questions are on your hearts and minds as our church is on *pause* because of the coronavirus. Here are some frequently asked questions and answers.

How long is our church going to be on PAUSE?

Your pastors and leaders have just made the decision to keep offering only prerecorded worship through May, 2020. If we find that we're able to begin to get back in the Sanctuary sometime in May, we'll let you know. We also expect that all our other activities and programs will remain paused through May. Again, we'll advise you if that changes due to updated information from the CDC, State of Arizona and City of Tucson officials, and/or if we receive directives from our Bishop, Robert Hoshibata.

How is our church doing overall?

Overall we're doing well, under the circumstances. Hundreds of people are logging on to our livestream worship and tell us they appreciate it. Our pastors, staff and dedicated volunteers work hard to continually improve the livestream and carry out other church business. Operations and business of our church continue as committees meet via Zoom. People at our church are healthy, as far as we know. Many people are working to care for and reach out to each other. Leaders and staff are beginning to plan for a gradual reopening of our church

when the time is right and are discussing what a "new normal" may be like.

How do I access the worship services?

On Sunday mornings you can livestream worship at 9:45 a.m. at umcstmarks.org/live-stream. You can also find the livestream on St. Mark's Facebook page. Or you can go to YouTube and search for St. Mark's UMC Oro Valley. After the 9:45 a.m. livestream you can still find the services on Facebook and YouTube, and can find them on the website. First hover over the LIVE WORSHIP tab, and select PREVIOUS SERVICE, then look in the Current Services folder.



How is our church doing financially and what can I do to help?

In January and February our income exceeded our expenses so we built up a surplus. In March, as we stopped in-person worship, our expenses exceeded our income, so our surplus was reduced. We expect the surplus to continue to diminish in April. An article from the Finance Committee in this *Messenger* on page 3 gives you more information.

Continued on page 2...

Questions You are Asking *(continued from page 1)*

St. Mark's people are generous givers so we're confident that over time we will be fine. It is vital that you continue to give to support the mission and ministries of our church. Go to umcstmarks.org GIVING tab. You can also mail your donation to St. Mark's UMC, 1431 W. Magee Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704. Thank you in advance for your continued giving.

Is the kitchen remodel project happening?

Yes! The remodel project began on March 31, 2020, and is moving along. See page 4 of this **Messenger** for details. Donations made earlier this year are funding this project. If you made a pledge to the project, we encourage you to keep that. You also can continue to make donations to the project via online giving or by mailing a check.

How long will our church office be closed?

We expect our office to remain closed for a few more weeks. Some of our staff are coming into the office to do necessary business and others are working from home, still working hard to do the work of our church. You can leave messages for us at 520-297-2062. In the mornings the messages are checked regularly. If you leave a message after noon it may take a little longer to be received. If you have an emergency, call 297-2062, and leave a message on the **Emergency line**. A pastor is contacted immediately.

Will "Who's With Me Tonight?" continue?

Who's With Me Tonight? is on St. Mark's Facebook Live every night at 7:00 p.m. This is a 5-10 minute light-hearted time for people of all ages with puppets, prayer and Scripture. This will continue every night through the end of April. We expect it to continue in May as well, but it may not be every night. We're working on that. If I'm not on Facebook, can I still watch **Who's With Me Tonight?** or other Facebook Live events? Yes, you can. Just go to St. Mark's UMC Facebook and watch the live events. If you are not on Facebook, you cannot make comments on the live feed, but can simply watch.

What's happening with our missions programs?

Like everything else, most of our hands-on mission programs are on pause. The one exception is that we continue to provide meals 1-2 times a month for the Primavera men's shelter. Groups are preparing food at home and delivering it to Primavera for them to serve to the men and/or are providing a monetary donation so that the Primavera staff can purchase food. As usual, though, 10% of all that is given to St. Mark's is designated for mission projects. Our Missions Committee has continued to receive funds and disburse them to needy organizations throughout Tucson and beyond. In addition, in late February and early March we collected food for the Food Bank at Interfaith Community Services, which was delivered by a dedicated volunteer. You can still deliver food to ICS, if you wish. Our staff liaison for Missions is Margaret Synhorst (margaret@umcstmarks.org).

What children/youth programs are going on now?

Our staff is providing fun and interesting online programs for youth. Our children's staff and volunteers are connecting with children and families in a variety of ways. Be sure to read the Youth News on page 5 of this issue of **Messenger**.

Youth staff for Christian Formation

Kim Ogle: kim@umcstmarks.org

Rachel Mosher: rachel@umcstmarks.org

Children's staff

Margaret Synhorst: Margaret@umcstmarks.org

Rachel also works with family ministries.

How are classes for adults taking place?

A number of adult classes and programs are taking place via Zoom or email. For more information contact Adult Spiritual Growth Chair, Judy Boroto (see directory) or Margaret Synhorst.

How are people in our church being cared for?

There's not enough room here to talk about all the ways that you are caring for one another. If pastors or staff receive a message about someone who is sick or in need, we respond as soon as we are able. Group and class leaders have been asked to intentionally contact people in their groups to check on them.

Pastor Stuart has established the Telecare ministry, in which people who are not in groups or classes are contacted by phone. He still needs more people to assist with making phone calls to simply check on people to see how they are doing. To be part of this ministry please email Pastor Stuart (stuart@umcstmarks.org).

If you or someone you know is sick or in-need, please contact our church office (297-2062) and leave a message for one of the pastors:

Sharon Ragland: sharon@umcstmarks.org

Evy McDonald: evy@umcstmarks.org

Stuart Salvatierra: stuart@umcstmarks.org

If you have other questions, please send them to us at info@umcstmarks.org.

We are moving through this challenging time, by God's grace and by working together. I am profoundly grateful to leaders and staff who are faithfully serving Christ during this time, as they always do.

God bless and be with you... Sharon

We're in Good Shape, for the Shape We're in!

St. Mark's finances for the first three months of 2020 are summarized below:

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance to Budget
Total Income	\$321,123	\$309,924	\$11,199
Total Expense	303,153	311,751	(8,598)
YTD Difference	\$ 17,970	(\$ 1,827)	\$ 19,797

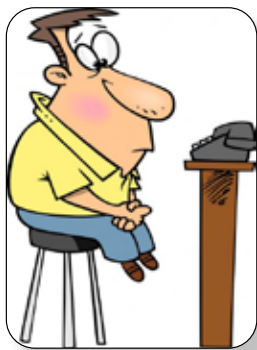
Through the first two Sundays of April, expenses exceeded income by \$1,963. This reduces the year-to-date difference from a \$17,970 surplus to a \$16,007 surplus. I am reminded of a saying from troubled times in the past: "We're in good shape for the shape we're in." Like everyone else, St. Mark's is experiencing a reduction in receipts and is trying to reduce expenses. Committees have been asked to defer expenditures where possible. There are two exceptions—Missions and Trustees. Missions is continuing to meet its current commitments as much as possible. There are so many people and agencies worse off than St. Mark's. Trustees are continuing to fund projects that are currently in progress. This includes the kitchen remodeling. Also, we paid our Apportionment.

St. Mark's is blessed with such a caring congregation. This time of social distancing is difficult for everyone. Please keep in touch with your church and friends as much as possible. You can bring Sunday service, study groups, and committee meeting into your homes through computer technology. Stay well and God bless you.

Bill Zermuehlen, Chair—Finance Committee

Telecare, A Way to Stay Together!

One of the few things that we can all count on is that things change. Sometimes these changes are welcome but sometimes they are not. Sometimes, they have long lasting impact upon us. The event our society is living through right now is one that will change us in all kinds of ways. As a result St. Mark's is worshipping differently as a community and we are taking care of ourselves in different ways.



Our Telecare ministry is one of the ways that we are adapting to the changes that we face. In times where we are not able to meet person-to-person or in groups, we are using

the communications technology available to us to come together. The goal of Telecare is for us to reach out to the St. Mark's community with one-on-one communication. Many volunteers are already calling other people in the church. If you are a part of a committee, ASG class, choir, or other group at the church I am sure that you have already noticed this ministry in action. Many volunteers are reaching out in

love to make sure that their siblings in Christ are safe during this time.

We are still looking for volunteers to reach out to St. Mark's people who are not already benefiting from the communication nets that we are putting in place. If you would be willing to help call a group of people once a week, contact Pastor Stuart (stuart@umcstmarks.org). Volunteering to call five people a week is one phone call every weekday and will make a difference in your life and the lives of the people that you call. Please consider this opportunity to make a difference during this time of trial. Your siblings in Christ are looking forward to hearing from you!

This is also a critical time for maintaining current contact information for our church family. When we have accurate information on file, it allows us to stay connected especially during these isolated times. See page 7 for ways to submit information to the church office regarding your address, phone numbers, and email changes.

Pastor Stuart

Graduation

Please get a photo and the name of your school to Kim by May 11, so you can be included in the video that will be shown in worship on Graduate Recognition Sunday, May 17. Send info and photos to Kim Ogle (kim@umcstmarks.org). We will celebrate all of our graduates, high school through grad school, in the video. College grads, in addition to your photo and school, please include your degree. Sometimes, members of our St. Mark's community like to submit information about their grandchildren, who are graduating. That's okay, we like to celebrate everyone!



Kitchen Remodel Campaign/Project Update

We wanted to give the Congregation an update on both the Kitchen Remodel Campaign and the progress of the construction.

- Campaign contributions and pledges now total \$234,199, or 78.1% of our \$300,000 Victory Goal,
- Only \$65,801 remains to reach the Victory Goal,
- Outstanding pledges represent \$19,023 of the \$234,199 Campaign total. Receipt of pledges will be critical to meet our progress payments to the contractor and other project expenses.

The original plan was to begin demolition of the existing kitchen right after Easter Sunday. The campus shutdown provided the opportunity for the contractor begin two weeks earlier than scheduled. Key milestones to-date include:

- Demolition of walls and ceilings (down to the studs)
- Locating all under slab utility lines,
- Saw cutting of concrete floor to install new plumbing and electrical lines,
- Re-pouring of concrete floor.

Near-term next steps include the framing of all walls and above slab plumbing and electrical installations.



We did have a few “surprises” when the walls and portions of the floor were removed. The existing “as built” drawings were not accurate in all cases and the contractor handled these challenges very well. The pictures published with this article hopefully give you a better idea of the scope of the work being performed and the value received for our future investment.

We also hope these pictures will inspire you to support the Kitchen Remodeling Campaign if you haven’t already given or wish to add to your prior gift. (Note: The CARES Act now offers a new above-the-line tax benefit for qualified charitable contributions in 2020. It is especially meaningful for those that can’t itemize their deductions. Consult your tax advisor for details.)

As our new kitchen emerges, you’ll want to be among those that made a difference. Our kitchen is vital to St. Mark’s, serving not only our constituents and visitors but also many we reach as Jesus’ disciples in our community. All donations to the Kitchen Remodeling Campaign add up. Let’s reach our Victory Goal before the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!

Lezley Barth and John Cecilia



UPPER ROOM Devotionals

Our May-June issue of the **UPPER ROOM** has arrived. Because the church is temporarily closed, we will place a supply of devotionals in the black mailbox that is located outside the main entrance of the church office. If you would like a devotional, please stop by and take one from the church mailbox. We’ll keep the box supplied while quantities last. Please don’t leave money in the mailbox, just put your dollar in the UPPERROOM box at church, when church reopens.

Youth Ministry

The latest news for High School, Middle School and Pre Teen Students!



Adventures of the Youth Directors



Confirmation News

Confirmation, like everything else, looks very different this year, doesn't it!? We are so close to finishing the curriculum and still on target for you all to be confirmed in May. Please be sure that you are enrolled in the Confirmation Google classroom. We will complete our lessons using the Google classroom, and Zoom meetings. Please contact Rachel or Kim if you have any questions!

Middle School Mission

St. Mark's has hosted Middle School Mission for the last fifteen years. Students in grades 6-8 have gathered at St. Mark's to be in community and fellowship with each other, while serving in local missions around Tucson. It's always a very fun event, and youth from all around Southern Arizona look forward to it each year! Unfortunately, with everything that is going on right now, we have decided as a District not to hold this event. Stay tuned for details about a district event in the fall, which will include a service component.

Sierra Service Project

Kim and Rachel are watching Sierra Service Project's websites for any changes. As of right now, they haven't announced any, so we are planning to move forward with plans to participate in SSP this summer. Students who have completed grades 8-12 are eligible to join in the fun. Please make sure that if you are planning to come with us, that you have made your first payment! Contact Kim or Rachel for further questions.



Now What!?

This "new normal" we have found ourselves in seems anything but normal! But we know that eventually, we will be together again! Your Youth Directors look forward to that day, and are busy planning a very fun summer with all of our amazing Youth friends! We look forward to the days when we can be together again. Please let us know if you need anything during this time! WE MISS YOU!



St. Mark's Youth Group—
Stay connected socially!



By now, it is probably starting to feel like staying home is normal. Of course, we're all trying to help keep everyone safe and healthy, so we still aren't meeting as a group at the church on Sundays. The good news is that this pause is giving us time to plan summer activities that are going to be awesome! Please know that Julie and all of your leaders miss you terribly and are praying for you. Hopefully, we can be together as soon.



United Methodist Women News

The St. Mark's UMW unit meeting, Grace Circle, Craft Circle, and card recycling are all canceled for the month of April. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Hayworth (see directory).

Our Craft Circle and other UMW members are using this time of social isolation to make masks for healthcare workers from donated materials. So far, we have delivered over 265 masks to hospitals and other healthcare groups. Donations of flannel, elastic, bias tape and thread would be greatly appreciated. Contact Bonnie Sargent (see directory) if you have materials to donate.

Prayers that you are all staying safe and healthy!

St. Mark's Prayer Chain



As a reminder, St. Mark's has an active Prayer Chain. Anytime you would like your church family to pray for people, situations, etc., please email the information to prayerchain@umcstmarks.org or leave a message with the church office (520-297-2062). Church email and telephone messages are checked regularly during the week, even though the office is closed due to current Coronavirus situation. Members of the Prayer Chain receive information daily and pray over every request.

If your prayer request is **confidential**, please indicate that in your email or phone call. Confidential requests go directly to our pastors for prayer and follow up if necessary.

Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

If you have not already connected to any of these spiritually uplifting opportunities, please consider giving them a try. Each one is a wonderful opportunity to continue your spiritual growth during this difficult time.

Shining Spirit Blog

SHINING SPIRIT - Welcoming The Wonder of Life is a daily blog offered by Roger Pierce. It's a special place for those who want to think about deeper seeing and deeper listening. Stop by and welcome the wonder of life! Go to: shiningspirit.org for uplifting offerings

Starting the Week the Right Way

Participants will read short Scriptures during the week, then discuss them on Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Here's how you can participate:

1. Device: You need a device (computer, tablet, or phone) that has audio and video (camera--smart-phones have these and many newer computers).
2. Zoom: You need to go to [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us) or get the Zoom app and download Zoom. You do not need an account.
3. Participate: On Monday morning at 9:00 a.m., simply click on the link provided below to join the group. Do not click on the link until it is time for the meeting.

Topic: Starting the Week the Right Way

Time: Apr 27, 2020 09:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/357550223>

If you have questions about Zoom, email Judy Boroto (see directory).

Thoughts to Ponder

Linda Walker will host a group discussion via email around various topics which are pertinent to our current situation. If you would like to be included in this group discussion, email Margaret Synhorst (margaret@umcstmarks.org) to be added to the list.

Have You Seen My Son?

By Jon McCauley Smith

The right words seem illusive because **thank you**, and **gratitude**, cannot convey the depth of appreciation I have for each person that helped our Good Friday play be such a moving offering during Holy Week. I want each person to know that their contribution is valued and this play could not have happened without each one of you.



Thank you to those who assisted with props and production: Anita Winslow, Kevin Conlin, Rob Cavalier, Drew Yaussy, Carolyn Yaussy, Margaret Synhorst, and Pastor Stuart. Thank you to all the musicians: Doug Fish, Cathy Harris-Herschenroeder, Elizabeth Schauer, John Webster, and Sondra Franks. Thank you to the actors: Martha Mazzolini, Paul Stegall, Donna Reed, Jane Towne, Tara Jacobson, Carol Fisher, and Kirk Jacobson.

Together we produced something that was far greater than our individual parts. It was an honor to work with you and be part of the team.

Blessings on the next journey, Pastor Evy

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, and leave a prayer on our prayer wall.

<i>Peter Booth</i>	<i>Keith Johnson</i>
<i>Jared Bowman and family</i>	<i>Jim and Mary Sanders</i>
<i>Donald Chester</i>	<i>Ana Luisa Terrazas</i>
<i>Deb Cushman</i>	<i>Carol Underwood</i>
<i>Judy Drescher</i>	<i>Jackie Vickers</i>
<i>April DuBoce</i>	<i>Judy Wickham</i>
<i>Marge and Darrel Frazer</i>	<i>Lindsay Williams</i>
<i>Keith and Mary Ann Glazier</i>	

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Donna Goetz and her family on the passing of Donna's husband, Norman, on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. Services are planned for a later time when it is safe for family and friends to gather.

Help Us Update Our Church Database!

One thing is for certain, with the recent closures and other demands placed on our church, we've been using our church database heavily to keep in touch with our church family. We are happy that we can stay connected, but unfortunately we are finding that some of our directory information is outdated.

This happens for many reasons. For example, perhaps you've disconnected your landline phone service and only use a cell phone but the church doesn't have those numbers on file. Or you have a new email, or possibly you moved but we still have the old address in our database.

Please help us stay connected. If you've changed your mailing address, or phone number recently, please make sure you notify the church office so we can update your records. Complete this form and mail it back to the church office, or use the online form on our website. Hover over RESOURCES on the main menu, then click FORMS.

Mailing Address and Phone Number Form

Name(s):

1. _____

2. _____

Mailing address

Street: _____

City: _____, State: _____, Zip _____

Telephone Landline #: _____

Cell Phone #: 1. _____ 2. _____

Email: 1. _____

2. _____

Wedding Anniversary: _____

Birthday: 1. _____ 2. _____

YES NO May we include your information in our church directory? The information is only shared with our congregation.

Please mail to the church office Attn: Sherry Walker
St. Mark's UMC, 1431 W Magee Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704

Reflections

Appreciation! Thanks! Gratitude! Gracias!

Whatever words are used, the expression is the same, and fully genuine. Beginning with the weeks before Easter, so many people contributed their time, talents, wisdom, guidance, and unique abilities so that we could worship and reach people, even as we began and implemented a *pause* on everything at St. Mark's.

What is truly striking and heart-warming is the level of commitment and heart for Christ shown by our leaders, staff and so many volunteers over these past weeks. Words cannot truly express gratitude for those who were visible—providing music, assisting in worship—and the many, many people who have worked behind the scenes. People have decorated the sanctuary in order to take pictures for the recordings for worship (thank you, Dana), worked tirelessly in the sound booth and with the technology for worship, learned about Zoom and led classes and meetings, collected and delivered food to the food bank, and so much more. In addition, people have supervised the beginnings of the kitchen remodel project and other repair/updates projects, kept a close eye on our finances and spending, and supervised, guided, led, given input and so much more.

Many of you are now making calls and contacts with others in your classes and groups and with church people who are not connected to groups, reaching out just to show care.

While all this was (and is) going on others of you have made masks, brought small gifts to us pastors, held us all in prayer and uplifted the pastors and staff by your kind words and cards. Thank you so much, more than words can say.

You have been and are the living example of the body of Christ, working together under challenging circumstances to help others know about Christ's love and promise of hope and joy. We have been willing to learn new things, like Zoom and livestreaming and other forms of technology that help us stay connected and grow in love.

Through it all, you have continued to give financially so that our church can remain strong and vital. We may have some short-term challenges, but I'm confident that longterm we will be fine.

Thank you to our staff, the other pastors, leaders, workers, volunteers, class facilitators, Telecare people, pray-ers, musicians, drivers, and helpers. We are not through this yet, but together we are the living demonstration of Christ's love and hope. To all of you, members and friends, of St. Mark's, thank you for loving Christ and our church, and for loving God's people in the world enough to give up some of your own desires so that we can all be well for God's future.

Blessings, Sharon