

Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

Volume 60, Number 9

July 1, 2020



All Three St. Mark's Pastors Reappointed, Plus One More ...

Dear St. Marks Congregation,

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has a few joyful announcements. First, as many of you already know, Stuart Salvatierra was commissioned as a provisional elder at the Annual Conference on June 12. This is an important step in his process toward becoming fully ordained in the United Methodist Church. He now has two years of being "provisional" and has to go to some trainings and meetings before he can apply for ordination.



Second, I'm happy to let you know that our three current pastors have been reappointed to serve at St. Mark's for the upcoming year. Pastor Sharon begins her 11th year as our Lead Pastor. Pastor Stuart begins his third year as our full-time associate pastor. And Pastor Evy has also been reappointed, to serve as our part-time associate pastor and pastoral liaison to our second site. We are so happy to have all of them returning.



Finally, I've been asked by Bishop Robert Hoshibata to read a letter announcing that Kim Ogle is being appointed to serve as a licensed local pastor at St. Mark's as of July 1. Her title will be Youth and Outreach Pastor. Kim will con-



tinue to work with our youth, serve as a team leader for our Christian Formation Team, and serve as a part-time pastor to our second site, working to reach new people. (Read the accompanying letter in this Messenger.) Kim has completed her studies to become a licensed local pastor and we're happy to have her join our pastoral team.

In addition to these pieces of wonderful news I would like express our appreciation for the pastors and staff of St. Mark's. During this time when we are trying to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, many changes have had to occur. The bishop has ordered us to close the campus while continuing to offer worship and outreach opportunities. This has meant the staff and pastors have had to do almost all their work remotely from their homes. This was a drastic change that has been taken in stride by the staff and pastors. Working from home presents a great number of challenges that have been met seemingly effortlessly but has made for a great deal of extra work. We are grateful for the staff and how they have made these changes to serve us as congregants. We are also very grateful for the work, time



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COVID-19 Survey Results from the "Genesis Team"

The results of the survey on COVID-19 matters have been shared by Pastor Sharon and then by the lay leaders in the newly introduced weekly Lay Leaders' email. Because the results have been shared over a couple formats, we are compiling the results into one spot. Here is what we learned. (Note: Survey was distributed in the middle of May, before Arizona began the recent surge in virus cases.)

- 93% of respondents indicated "mostly" and "strict" compliance with stay-at-home order.
- 41% of those responding said they would not feel com-

fortable returning to worship until a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19 is widely available.

- 35% of those responding said it would be after December 2020 before they might feel comfortable attending in-person worship. 8.5% said they would feel comfortable returning in June, 15% in July, 21% in August and others between September to December.
- 71% felt that wiping of hard surfaces was important/essential before a space is reused.
- Respondents understand and agree with discontinuing the use of printed items such as hymnals, Bibles, attendance pads, etc. since they are common-use items.
- 79% felt the availability of hand sanitizer is important.
- 75% indicated that social distancing is important/very important/essential.
- More than 70% indicated that wearing face masks is im-

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Pastors continued from page 1

and energy that has been put in by pastors Sharon, Evy and Stuart to keep us focused on the word of God through Jesus. We are also grateful for the musicians and music leaders who have gone above and beyond to give us the music that lightens our hearts and helps us to be full of song, even when we are singing at home. Please keep all these people in your prayers and reach out to them via email to show your appreciation for all they have been doing for all of us.

With blessings,
Ken Dunlap, Chair SPRC



June 3, 2020

Ken Dunlap
Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
1431 W. Magee Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85704-2116

Dear Ken,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior!

I am pleased to announce to you that Bishop Robert Hoshibata intends to appoint Kim Ogle to serve as the Youth and Outreach Pastor at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Tucson, AZ, effective July 1, 2020. Through a process of prayerful discernment and consultation with the church, the Bishop and Cabinet believe that Ms. Ogle has the gifts and skills needed to serve your church at this time.

Kim is looking forward to being in ministry with you.

I am praying for you as you welcome and celebrate Kim into your presence.

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Mark Conrad
Missional Strategist and Superintendent
Desert Southwest Conference
The United Methodist Church

Cc: Bishop Robert Hoshibata
Rev. Mark Conrad
Rev. Sharon Ragland
Pastor Kim Ogle
Julie O'Neal

Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

ALL EVENTS ARE VIA ZOOM

Sign up for these discussions and classes online. Zoom links will be sent a couple of days before the event.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS. Full details are online at <https://umcstmarks.org/classes/adult-spiritual-growth-opportunities/>

- 1 July 13, 6:30-8 p.m.: "A Spark of Light" by Jodi Picoult, led by Margaret Synhorst
- 2 July 27, 6:30-8 p.m.: "Here If You Need Me: A True Story" by Kate Braestrup, led by Sandi Heilman
- 3 Tuesdays, Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25, 7-8:30 p.m.: "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" by Dr. Robin DiAngelo, led by Pastor Evy
- 4 Wednesdays, 4-5:30 p.m., begins Aug. 5: "Grief: God's Help in Times of Sorrow," 9 weeks, studies from Psalms, led by Margaret Synhorst, Marge Sogn, and Judy Boroto

- **Wednesday Morning Study Group** is planning to resume classes beginning in September via Zoom. If you are interested in getting timely information, please email Marcia Rostad--see directory. It meets Wednesdays 10-11:30 a.m.
- The co-leaders of **Family Life/Sharing Adult Sunday School** are planning a conference call in July to explore virtual opportunities for class to meet until we can meet again in person. Contact Terry Majewski (see directory) or Rick Farnsworth (see directory) for details on how to participate.

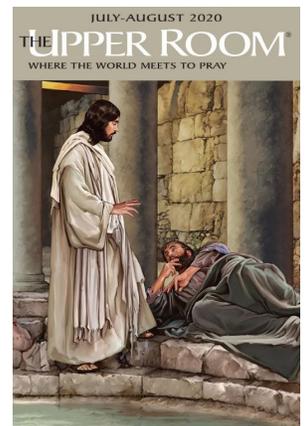
Just Breathe Holy Yoga is on Zoom!



Class is on Monday mornings. The Zoom "room" opens at 9 a.m., with the class starting at 9:15 a.m. If you are interested in trying a gentle, scripture-based yoga practice, please email Tricia@umcstmarks.org for the Zoom link.

Devotionals now available

The July/August Upper Room devotionals are now available for pickup in the black mailbox next to the office door.



portant.

• Respondents agree that in-person worship will need to be limited in size to somewhere between 40%-60% in the initial reopening plan.

While 88% indicate that online worship met or exceeded expectations, it was also clear that we all miss the community experienced during in-person worship. To make that happen, most people (60%) are willing to change their worship pattern in the short-term to accommodate changes in the size of in-person gatherings. It is not just worship that is missed, but also activities such as classes for children, youth and adults.

One thing that was very gratifying to see, as indicated in the written responses, is that most everyone appreciates the effort that the pastors and staff are making to continue to lead and serve us in the best ways possible. While nothing is 100%, it is also clear that you are being very patient and trusting as church leadership – not only pastors, staff and Genesis Team, but the leaders and members of all committees and teams – work through this experience together with you.

We are grateful to be lay leaders for such a caring congregation.

Brenda Hunter

Don Booth

John Cecilia

St. Mark's Financial State

St. Mark's finances as of the end of May are summarized below:

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Total Income	\$499,169	\$516,540	\$(17,371)
Total Expense	471,764	521,436	(49,672)
YTD Difference	27,405	\$ (4,896)	\$ 32,301

We also are pleased to report that through the first three Sundays of June, income exceeded expenses by \$272. This increases the year-to-date surplus from \$27,405 to \$27,677. We credit these positive financial results to the committees doing a wonderful job controlling expenses and the generous contributions received. The Finance Committee thanks everyone for their support. Continued contributions can be made online at www.umcstmarks.org/giving, or by mail to St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 1431 W. Magee Road, Tucson, AZ 85704. All mail is deposited into a locked mail box.

Bill Zermuehlen, Finance Committee

Ruth Kester, Bookkeeper

A Statement from the Church and Society Team

Ending Racism Begins with Us

No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love. -- Nelson Mandela

We, the members of the Church and Society team of St.



Mark's UMC, denounce the recent deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd plus so many others. We invite you to join us in our grief and anger that these deaths happened to unarmed Black Americans.

We believe it is time for us to acknowledge and admit the systemic racial bias that permeates every aspect of our society: access to health care, employment, education, housing and our justice system. We believe that as Christians, we are called to stand with those who for generations have lived with the effects of racism. We believe we need to work together to change the structures of our country and the attitudes that see some people as less-than, or that they have created their own bed – so lie in it. The Church and Society team commits to examining our own racism, to study and engage in conversations, to work for equal enforcement of laws regardless of race or nationality, and to join with others willing to do the same. Will you join with us?

We are white members of the community of St. Mark's and realize that in our society we enjoy benefits that those of other races do not. The term for these advantages is "White Privilege." *This does not imply a life without hardship, challenges, loss, or disappointments.* This term simply means that our race, the color of our skin, was not a contributing factor. As individuals who identify as white we are part of the dominant group that tends to be respected, assumed the best of, and given the benefit of the doubt.

In The United States of America, white privilege has, essentially, gone unchallenged. It is so intertwined with our dominant culture's identity that even to name it seems impossible. Yet, as United Methodists, we are called to name our privilege, if we are white, and to acknowledge the truth that racism is a sin still being perpetrated on people of color.

In the Book of Resolutions, #3371, there is a list of what United Methodists are called to believe when it comes to confronting racism. In part it says, "We believe: 1. That

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Racism continued from page 3...

God is the Creator of all people and all are God's children in one family; 2. That racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ; 3. That racism denies the redemption and reconciliation of Jesus Christ; 4. That racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as a justification for social, economic, environmental and political exploitation."

We commit to live out Jesus' teachings. He always stood with those who were denied their full humanity – think of the woman he declared as a child of Abraham, even though she was deemed unworthy by the societal standards of Jesus' day. In Matthew 25: 44-45 a crowd asks: "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison and did not help you?" Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you whatever you did not do to the least of these you did not do to me."

This is one aspect of racism where we do not even see what we are or are not doing. Dismantling racism is not easy work. Yet, we feel compelled to examine our own hearts and want to, first, change ourselves.

As members of St Mark's Church and Society we invite you to join us and commit to:

1. Quit saying, "I am not a racist."
2. Acknowledge that racism is a systemic sin in America.
3. Repent of our failure to hear the cries of our sisters and brothers who face racial injustice daily.
4. Engage in listening to and having conversations with our brothers and sisters of color.
5. Participate in a study that will facilitate our understanding of white privilege and racism.

In God's kingdom all lives matter but when we realized that racism and unequal opportunities lead those who are nonwhite to the same societal experience as the ones

Jesus touched and ate with: that of being unworthy; we knew we had to speak up. Black lives matter. In saying this, we are not detracting from any other life. We, also, realize that racism extends to the Native American, Latinx and other communities. Jesus in 1 Corinthians 12:26 reminds us that, "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." We are all members of God's family and right now our black sisters and brothers are hurting; therefore we want them to know that not only do we care, we hear their cries and will work with them so every Black person will know his/her life matters.

Please join us in this prayer: ***May this time of crisis become an opportunity for transformation at all levels. May we be a light that guides the way to peace with justice. God, help us to remember and believe that impossible is possible through you and with the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.***

Church and Society Members

Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald, evy@umcstmarks.org

Mark Hrabe

Susan Zimmerman

Deb Cushman Goodyke

Marje Hrabe

Josh Smith

MaryLu Kiracoff

Dorothy Montgomery



'Special' Messenger Change

As you all know, life has gone a little upside-down since the onset of the novel coronavirus and COVID-19. At the beginning of this year, St. Mark's decided to go to a once monthly Messenger, with special editions sprinkled throughout the year, for a total of 15 editions in all.

One of those special editions was to focus on our "Back to School/Back to Church" activities, and it was scheduled to come out on July 22. After some discussion among the staff, we have decided to delay this special edition. With COVID cases spiking in Arizona, it's still not clear when the church campus will reopen, and the school districts have various, ever-changing plans for back-to-school as well.

So we will still gather information for the special edition to come out (hopefully) sometime this fall, but possibly even later. If you have any information or articles you'd like to submit, please send them to Messenger@umcstmarks.org



at your earliest convenience. The sooner we have these items in hand, the sooner we can lay out the special edition so it's ready to go when the time comes. Please help spread the word.

The deadline for the next regularly scheduled Messenger is July 30 for the Aug. 5 edition. Please send your submissions to Messenger@umcstmarks.org by noon that day.



Missions Update

The Missions Committee voted at its May Zoom meeting to send a check for \$1,000 to the Desert Southwest Annual Conference Mission, to provide fresh water for the COVID-19-ravaged Navajo Nation.

Thanks to St. Mark's generosity, our committee was able to disburse \$2,500 to TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) and \$1,500 to JobPath in June. JobPath provides financial, emotional and social support to hardworking students in viable career paths, leading to gainful employment. JobPath works with the underserved, helping to lift them out of poverty. Our Pastor Sharon is on its Board of Directors.

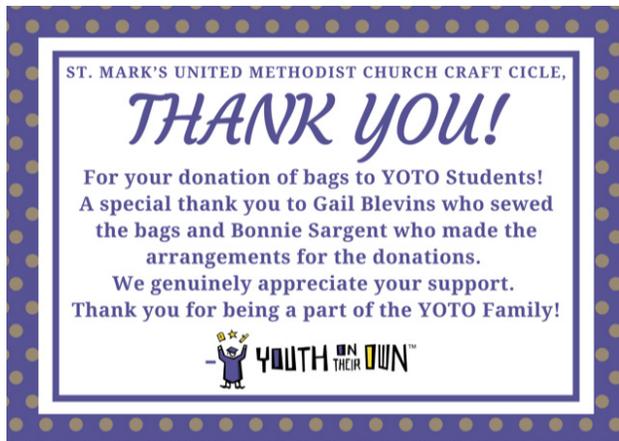
We are pleased to welcome John Yost to the Missions Committee as the new liaison for Interfaith Community Services. John has volunteered with ICS in several capacities, most recently with the Food Bank. He has faithfully collected and delivered our weekly food donations to ICS since March. He also serves as chair of ICS's Volunteer Advisory Board, Management Committee.

Pat Kittrell, Chair

An Update on UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is working diligently to help many people during this time of COVID-19. "Sheltering in Love" and other grants are a big way that help is being shared. As of now, UMCOR has administered 145 grants totaling \$1.5 million for people all over the world.

Much of this help is for immigrant families. One needed area of assistance is help to pay families' internet service bills. This is necessary so their children can continue their education. Grants are available to help communities stay safe and well and to acquire the necessities they need to get through this global pandemic.



ICS Food Drive

Many of you want to help those who have food insecurity during this pandemic. And the need is great. St. Mark's is collecting food in the north parking lot twice a week. Food items are donated to the Interfaith Community Services (ICS) food bank. Here are the details:



What: Non-perishable food items

When: Tues., 10-11 a.m. (John Yost)

OR Wed., 6-7 p.m. (Ken Dunlap)

Where: North church parking lot (Magee side)

If you are willing and able, buy a couple of extra items at the grocery store and drop them off (there will be no contact). Even in these difficult times, St. Mark's is still caring for those in our community who need it most.



When COVID-19 came our way in March, though food donations decreased at the ICS Food Bank, more people than ever came to get needed food assistance. St. Mark's

recognized this need and quickly stepped in to help. We have been collecting donations weekly for three months. To date, our generous members have donated more than 2,700 pounds of non-perishable food items. Our efforts are very much appreciated by those receiving the food and by the entire staff at ICS. They recognize what a special place St. Mark's is. THANK YOU!

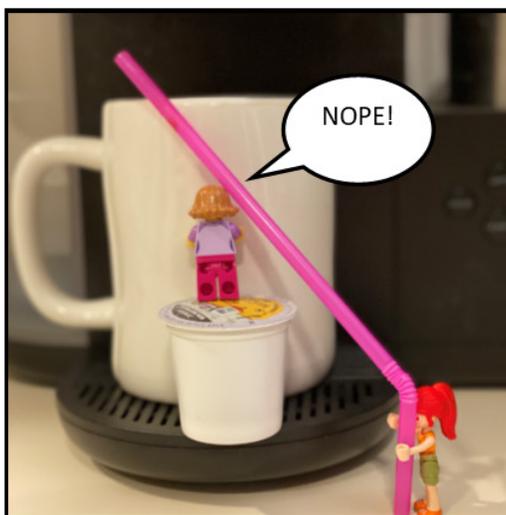
John Yost, ICS Liaison

Youth Ministry

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



Adventures of the Youth Directors



Come to the Virtual Wesley House



We are definitely creatures of habit. We love our routines, don't we? One of Rachel's favorite routines is Sunday afternoons at the Wesley House. She missed this routine so much and heard that some of us were having a little trouble keeping up with everything going out, that she made a Virtual Wesley House, where everything is all in one place! Kim and Rachel can be found in every room, with all kinds of fun stuff. If you need the link, let us know.

July Birthdays

- 7/10 — *Jonathon Petrikat-Lindsay*
- 7/12 — *James Carsten*
- 7/17 — *Abbie Lee*
- 7/21 — *Adriana Morales*
- 7/22 — *Freder Morrison*
- 7/26 — *Owen Morrison*
- 7/31 — *Brendan Ritchey*



Worship Online With Us!

Kim and Rachel miss seeing your smiling faces bright and early on a Sunday morning! Be sure to tune in at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings on the church Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StMarksTucson/>), YouTube

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Youth Ministry

Latest news for High School, Middle School, and Preteen Students!



(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6g3yDJBgfRqa6rYm-L55gFg>) or church website (www.umcstmarks.org) to see worship. It's a wonderful experience, and no one cares how your hair looks! The buildings may be closed but church is definitely OPEN!

Missions for Middle Schoolers

With no Middle School Mission this year, we know a lot of our 6-8 graders are missing it. But have no fear! You don't need a mission trip to participate in missions and service! There are so many things that you can do while being home and staying safe. If you do any mission, send Kim and Rachel an e-mail – we would love to see what you do! Some ideas: chalk the walk (I know a lot of us already did this back in March, but we could always use a happy sidewalk, right!?), send cards to first responders, send cards or artwork to nursing home residents, leave a gift or card at the door of a friend or neighbor, paint kindness rocks and "hide" them around your neighborhood – the list goes on and on. If you think of your own idea, do that, and let us know, too!

High School Mission Update



Like many of you, your leaders are very disappointed that we won't get to go to northern CA and participate in the Sierra Service Project this summer. SSP sent materials to Kim and Rachel for a virtual SSP. They tried really hard to replicate the mission virtually, but it seemed very long and over-thought

to us. (Neither of us are really over thinkers!) Five long days of screen time seemed more like school than a fun, summer activity.

We talked to other United Methodist leaders in Tucson and they agreed. Together we have designed a half-day experience for our South District churches, "Beyond ZOOM." You will get to know people from other churches AND you'll have service opportunities.

Beyond ZOOM will take place July 12 from noon to 3:45 p.m., right on your computer. Here's the really great part: You can participate, even if you weren't originally signed up for SSP! We'll send details in the next few days. In the meantime, we know that God calls us to service. We also know that He likes us to have fun. "See" you on ZOOM in July!

--Kim and Rachel



Fight Summer Boredom

Check Out PreTeen and Soul Station Weekly Email!

It's HOT, you have already been cooped up at home for three long months and there is still a lot of summer left. Summer looks a lot different for most of us this year. Check out the weekly emails that I am sending to Preteens and Soul Station Kids and families. Each week I am sending out a project/craft, challenge or recipe that is kid/family friendly. The activities can be completed for the most part with items you probably already have at home. So far we have had a cardboard box challenge, made Hope, Peace and Love posters, showed our support for helpers in our community and made some extra-yummy cool treats to share with our families.

If you are not already receiving these emails, please contact me at (see directory) and I will add you to the email roster. You do not need to be a Soul Station or PreTeen attendee to participate. All church families are welcome to participate; just send me your email address and I will be sure to include you on next week's email.

--Julie



See Yourself on the Big Screen!

... Or the small screen, if you watch on your phone. Or a medium screen, if you watch on a tablet. You know what we mean! We have another fun video coming up, and we need your help!!

For this video, we want you to send a video of you saying our Youth Benediction (from Numbers 6:24-26). Either record yourself, or have someone help record you saying the following: "May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. May the Lord LIFT up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen."

Please send in your video to Rachel at rachel@umcstmarks.org by July 15. Then stay tuned to see how it all turns out!

Kitchen Remodel and Campaign Update

St. Mark's is now at "Countdown: In the Final Stretch" on completion of the Kitchen Remodel Campaign. There is only \$47,799 remaining to reach the \$300,000 Victory Goal.



The St. Mark's generous constituents have already contributed or committed \$252,201 to the campaign. It is an outstanding achievement for a short-term campaign, and we could not be more grateful! But if you have not participated to date, or wish to increase your donation, we hope you will consider doing so. Please help us make history with a fully funded new kitchen after 50+ years.

We look forward to showing off the Kitchen Remodel Project when ready for the Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony after our campus reopens. The kitchen tour will highlight all the positive changes in the redesign. These changes were possible because of "difference-makers" like you.

Construction progress continues with a transition to some of the finishing aspects of the project. Here are some of the items that have been completed or are scheduled to be completed in the next several weeks:



- The Fiberglass Reinforced Panels (FRP) for inside the kitchen are installed. (Easy cleaning!)
- A new door and jamb installed from the hallway to the Fellowship Hall lobby.
- The water heating system and condenser unit for the A/C have been installed.
- The two new electrical panels are being wired.
- Surface texturing and stucco work nearly complete.
- Cabinetry is being installed.
- Floor tiling to be completed within 1-2 weeks.
- Appliances to be delivered after flooring and cabinetry.

A good amount of detail work remains to be completed and the pictures here will hopefully give you a good sense of the progress and what has yet to be completed.

In the past, the St. Mark's kitchen provided an invaluable ministry to our constituents and those we served in the community. Join us in that ministry into the future. Let's complete the final stretch of our Kitchen Remodel Campaign!

Thanks for your support!--Lezley Barth and John Cecilia

Kitchen Remodel Campaign



Update from Worldwide Christian Support Task Force:

China Added to Focus List of Countries Persecuting Christians

Over the past years, Worldwide Christian Support Task Force brought information to St. Mark's about international persecution of Christians. This was through workshops, articles and other presentations to groups. We shared information about Egypt, India, Myanmar, Nigeria, Mexico and Syria, which are on our focus list. We are now adding China.



We are all focused on COVID-19 right now. If you weren't worried about China before, you probably are now because it seems to be the source of the virus. If you google "religious persecution China" you will find many articles about programs to destroy crosses and churches. You may also find information about a point system to decide which churches stay registered. Books have been banned. Other books have had references to God, the Bible or Christ edited out. As a result of this and more, China has moved up four points on the Open Doors USA World Watch List to No. 23 of the 50 countries most persecuting Christians Please add China to your prayer list.

Here are some links you may want to visit:

- ✓ <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/china/>
- ✓ <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/5-things-to-know-about-chinas-big-jump-on-the-2019-world-watch-list/>

If you would like more information about persecuted Christians, or to join St. Mark's Worldwide Christian Support Task Force, email us at christianpersecution@umcst-marks.org or drop us a note at the church office.

A Love Note to Our Volunteers

Dear Beloved Volunteers,
First and foremost, we miss you! It feels like a long time since we have seen your smiling faces, heard your jokes, talked about what was happening in your lives and shared together in the ministries of our church. If we said “thank you” a million times it would still not be enough for the depth and breadth of gratitude we have for the caring and selfless ways you volunteer at St. Mark’s. You know who you are, and we are grateful.

Unfortunately we do not have a date for when our buildings will be open. We do know that it will happen, just not right now. Your pastors and staff say to each of you, “We are doing the best we can to make sure that everyone will be safe when we do reopen.”

You will be among the first to get that information. So, until then, remember how much each of you means to us and to everyone who benefits from your volunteering.

With grateful hearts,
Your Pastors and Staff

Nash Neighbors Collection

Begins Soon

For the Nash Elementary school year beginning in August, the St. Mark's Nash Neighbors Committee will collect and donate school supplies to be used by the students. The following is a list of classroom supplies we invite the congregation to donate:

- Glue Sticks
- Black Dry Erase Markers
- Pink Pearl Erasers
- Yellow #2 Pencils
- Boxes of Tissues
- Paper Towels

Please bring your donations to the church's south parking lot (by the church office) on any of the following days. There will be no personal contact at the collection point.

- Mondays – 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (July 13, 20, or 27)
- Thursdays – 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. (July 16, 23, or 30)

If you have any questions, please contact Barb Sargent (see church directory for contact information). Thank you for your support of the children at Nash!

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.

*Peter Booth
Jared Bowman and family
Donald Chester
Deb Cushman
Judy Drescher*

*Marge and Darrel Frazer
Keith and Mary Ann Glazier
Keith Johnson
Megan Krzmarzick
Jim and Mary Sanders*

*Ana Luisa Terrazas
Carol Underwood
Jackie Vickers
Judy Wickham
Lindsay Williams*

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathy and prayers to:

- Tony and Lil Lovaglio and their family, particularly their niece Nicole Caldorola and her husband. Tony's brother-in-law, Nicole's father, left this world to be with Christ June 3. On June 2, Nicole's grandfather-in-law left this world to be with Christ. Much support and many prayers for everyone as they grieve while awaiting Nicole's first child in July.
- Jeanne Hervol, as well as sons, Rory and John Henry, on the passing of their husband and father, Rusty Hervol, on Sunday, May 31. Please keep the Hervol family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of Rusty.
- The family and friends of Harry Wenger. Harry passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 23, with his family around him. Please hold his wife, Gale, and family in your prayers. You can send cards to Gale Wenger at 6180 N. Panorama Circle, Tucson, AZ 85704. Services for Harry will be held at a later time.
- The family and many friends of Agnes Fisher, who passed away on Sunday, June 28. Please keep her sons and their families, as well as all those who loved Agnes, on your heart and in your prayers. Services will be held at a later time.

August Prayer Requests

St. Mark's Prayer Ministry Team provides information so you can pray for people and activities happening in and around church during the month. NOTE: The monthly Prayer Requests are posted on the church website located under the MINISTRIES tab, then CONGREGATIONAL CARE. Or if you are reading this online, follow this link:

https://umcstmarks.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/monthlyprayerlist_web7.20.pdf

UMW Keeps Busy at Home During Pandemic

The pandemic led to us being told to stay home, but there was still work to be done. Craft Circle has several shelves full of donated fabrics to be used someday. So several people set up their sewing machines because "someday" was NOW. We made about 1,500 masks. The first masks went exclusively to medical professionals because that was the most urgent need. After



the commercial enterprises began to fill that need, United Methodist Women – National sent out "A Call to Respond" and we immediately sent 123 face masks to the Navajo Nation. These masks were cut, assembled into kits and sewn by about 15 different women. A few days later we got a second call for Native American Nations in the Western Jurisdiction. About 13 women got busy again. We sent 150 masks to the Native American Fellowship for the Gila River Community. Bonnie Sargent contacted local communities to see if they also had a need, and 125 masks were delivered to the Pascua Yaqui community and 125 to the Tohono O'odham Nation. We also gave 20 masks to Frontera Wesley (the Wesley Foundation at the University of Arizona). Individual mask-makers additionally have made and donated masks where they see a need.

Another project that has been ongoing with St. Mark's United Methodist Women is making and filling cloth bags to give to Nash students with summer supplies. The stash of bags got quite large, and the school decided to do something different. Then the pandemic closed the school, so the question of what to do with the bags came up. Looking at the bags, we realized they were the perfect size for toiletries and other hygiene supplies. All 1,500 bags have now been distributed. Places we remember distributing them to include Emerge, Primavera men's shelter, Primavera women's shelter, Sister Jose's women's shelter, The Salvation Army, Sidewalk Sunday, Youth on Their Own, Stand Up for Kids, the Inn Project, Vista Colina family homeless shelter in Phoenix, Children's Center in Flagstaff and St. Mark's Vacation Bible School. There may be others that we have forgotten!

Busy St. Mark's Quilting Bees

COVID-19 may have shut down or slowed a lot of activities but it has not stopped St. Mark's Quilters. We cannot gather like at a quilting bee but we can be busy bees quilting, and we are! Normally we would be meeting at 9 a.m. Thursday mornings in rooms 17-18 to make community quilts. Depending on who needs them, those quilts go to a number of places including Nash Elementary.

We have been keeping in touch through weekly Zoom meetings on Thursday mornings. We have fun seeing each other and showing what we are sewing and doing to keep busy. With fabric and supplies we have at our homes we have been able to continue working on our community quilts!

Previously, most of the quilt tops have been made in our homes then taken to church where some of us layer quilts, some do machine sewing work, and others do handwork and tying. We are continuing to do that now but in our own homes. When tops are ready they are sent to the ladies who layer them, they pass them on to someone who does machine stitching, then they are passed on to the ladies who put in the ties.

When completed, they are collected so they can be distributed. On Thursday, June 25, I delivered 78 quilts we had worked on since early March to Easter Seals Blake Foundation. They will distribute them to dialysis patients and Child Protective Services.

--Gail Blevins



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Livestreamed
9:45 a.m.
umcstmarks.org
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YouTube

Reflections

Building as we Go ...

Someone has said that this time is like driving a car while we're still putting it together. I've shared that image a few times and someone recently responded by saying, "I've felt like it's more like setting sail in choppy waters in a boat we didn't have a chance to finish building."

Setting sail in an unfinished boat in choppy waters – life and ministry does seem a lot like that right now. We quickly closed our church buildings in the wake of a pandemic, not knowing quite where or how we were sailing. A leaders' team, now called the Genesis Team, has worked closely with me and our other pastors on guiding us through those parts of choppy waters. They are now nearly finished with a carefully built reopening plan for our buildings, with safety and a commitment to our people and ministries as our guide.

Through the rising and falling waves of the pandemic, the tragic deaths of Black Americans sent us into other choppy waters. How to best respond? Drawing upon the words of Scriptures and actions of Jesus to go to and heal those most in need, I have shared prayers, words and suggestions for ways we can look within ourselves and see how God is calling us to be part of the solutions, in these choppy waters. I so deeply appreciate and value those good men and women in our church community who serve in law enforcement, who have shared their thoughts and perspectives with me and who put their lives at risk on a daily basis. I so appreciate those who call us into deeper awareness of the struggles of people of color, and am espe-

cially grateful to those of you who have shared your perspectives with me.

Then the fires came and we were navigating in clouds of flame and smoke. I find myself grateful to those who are still fighting these fires in our mountains. In this case, we long for the waters of rain, without lightning, don't we?

I will make mistakes in navigating these complicated and choppy waters. We will make mistakes. I ask you to ride the waves with me, trusting in God's grace and leading, so that we can arrive safely on the other side, together, well and whole. Our buildings will remain closed for a while, although pretty soon we will begin to do a little recording for worship in our sanctuary. Our ministries will continue and will be shaped in new ways as we move toward the other side. I, with you, will continue to work in Jesus' name for whole lives for all God's people.

I have made a commitment to take joy in the sailing. What is God teaching me? How I am learning new things? Where do I see God working in the midst of it all? I remember Jesus' words, as he came to the disciples in the choppy, stormy waters of the Sea of Galilee, "Do not be afraid. It is I."

Blessings, Sharon