



Messenger

St Mark's
United Methodist

Volume 60, Number 15
December 9, 2020

Changing the world through Christ, by caring for all people.

Stewardship Campaign Update: 'Anchored in Hope'

The following is a summary of the 2021 Stewardship Campaign to date. The table compares the current campaign to the prior year's campaign as of Commitment Sunday plus two weeks:

	2021 \$ Pledged	2021 Cards Returned	2020 \$ Pledged	2020 Cards Returned
Commitment Sunday thru Week 2	\$697,599	242	\$802,678	281
Campaign Total	N/A	N/A	\$922,505	345

Currently "Anchored in Hope" is \$105,079 behind last year's campaign. This has been a very difficult year. It has taken a toll on everyone, both emotionally and financially. St. Mark's has also experienced these troubles. During 2020, the church has not been able to accomplish all of its missions and ministries. To change this for 2021, St. Mark's needs your financial help.

While our campus has been closed, there are still expenses for repairs and maintenance of the buildings and equipment. There are still office expenses and utilities to be paid. The online worship has hardware and software costs. Remote Bible study classes have technology costs. There are still the payroll expenses for our pastors and staff (Our "Hidden Assets") to minister to the adults and children within the church and the local community. The Missions Committee still receives 10% of the church income to distribute to charities. Our apportionment is still due. The mission statement, "Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people," means all people, including members of the church as well as the local, national and worldwide community. The campus may be closed, but the church is open. It still requires money as a resource to fulfill the mission statement.

If you have not yet submitted a pledge card, please do so if you are able. Cards can be mailed to St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 1431 W Magee Road, Tucson, AZ 85704. Or, you can make your commitment online by email to ruthk@umcstmarks.org. We have this hope that "Anchored in Hope" will be a success.

"We have this hope as an anchor for our lives." – Hebrews 6:19
– The Finance Committee

Christmas Eve Services Thursday, Dec. 24

All services can be accessed on our usual worship platforms on the church website, Facebook and YouTube.

11 a.m. Lessons and Carols

An online worship service of scripture and song that tells the Christmas story.

4 p.m. Family Worship

A family oriented, pre-recorded service with carols and a blessing of the children.

8 p.m. Livestream Traditional Candlelight Service

This service will be conducted live in real time from the Sanctuary. Attendees may log on to watch from home or view it on the screen in the church parking lot from the safety of their vehicles.



Well Wishes for Pastor Evy

We at the Staff-Parish Relations Committee wish all of you a meaningful, joyful and safe Advent season. Sadly, we are coming to the end of our time with a beloved member of our church staff, Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald. She is retiring after many years of service to us at St. Mark's. Pastor Evy has meant many things to many people, and we all will miss her, whether we knew her or not. During this time of pandemic, we are not able to wish Pastor Evy good wishes and thank



her in person. We can, though, thank her for her service in the form of notes and letters. We can also show our appreciation in the form of gift cards. Wildflower, Gourmet Girls and Pita Jungle are some of the places Pastor Evy enjoys. We encourage you to send a note or letter with a gift card enclosed to St. Mark's UMC at 1431 W. Magee Road, Tucson AZ 85704-2116. Gifts of cash or checks are also acceptable.

We leave you with blessings of health, comfort and strength during this advent season.

— Ken Dunlap, Chair SPRC

Year-End Notice for Donors

Please wait to file your income tax return until you've received your year-end statement of giving. Some donors may not be able to deduct certain contributions if they file a tax return before receiving their church contribution statement.

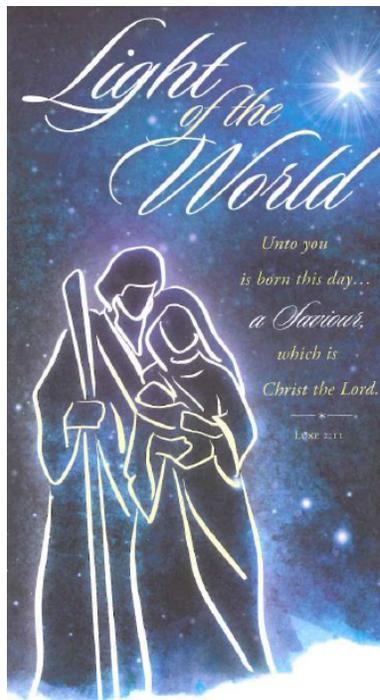
For contributions to be deducted in 2020, they must be received at the church by Dec. 31, 2020. This means that a check deposited in the church offering in January of 2021 cannot be deducted in 2020, even if it is backdated to 2020. One exception—checks that are written, mailed **and postmarked** in 2020 are deductible in 2020 even though not received until 2021. This also includes online donations that are not deposited into our account prior to Dec. 31, 2020. Please plan a couple of days ahead when making an electronic contribution for this year. Thank you!

Got Pain? Join Chronic Illness and Pain Support Group

The St. Mark's UMC Chronic Illness and Pain Support Group currently meets the second Wednesday of each month online via Zoom. We offer a time of prayer during each meeting and time to share personal joys and concerns, as you are comfortable. Our group is friendly and welcoming. We do not compare pain. We do not share, or ask questions about specific treatment options, doctors, therapists or other health care options during the meeting, but sometimes people discuss these things before or after, and that's OK. We want to help each other whenever we can, and we often make needed connections as we share together. At each meeting, we remind ourselves that we are meeting in a safe space as we listen and share, and everyone's confidentiality is respected and held.

For more info contact April DuBoce or Cliff Nystrom (see directory) or call the church office at 520-297-2062.

Nash Neighbors and the Christmas Offering



"The generous support of the St. Mark's community has been amazing for many, many years, and I feel blessed for that. I am so relieved to know that this support is continuing in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. The fact that the St. Mark's congregation is still prioritizing our Nash Community during such difficult times for ALL is truly astounding, and our entire school community will forever be grateful."

Bob Hehli, Principal, Nash Elementary School

Heartfelt words from Bob Hehli addressed to you, the St. Mark's UMC family. It is because of your willingness

to support Nash through the Christmas offering each year that the Nash Neighbors committee can provide many services that benefit students, staff and families. Perhaps you are not aware that the money received through the Christmas offering is the entire annual funding for this ministry. That is why you are encouraged to be generous with your offering this year.

Our primary budgeted projects each year include:

- Providing school supplies for each classroom (in addition to your bountiful donations of some items)
- Partnering with the Community Food Bank, beginning last spring, to operate a monthly mobile food pantry for families to provide a better variety of food, which is more ample than the weekly Snack Packs
- Providing gift cards to the principal to use for family emergencies

In addition, Nash Neighbors hosts a Christmas brunch for the staff and supports a teacher appreciation lunch at the end of the school year. Our classroom volunteers and the collection of gift cards for Nash families at Christmas (see the results of this year's project in this newsletter) remain an important part of our relationship with Nash, all thanks to your abundant gifts of time, talent and financial support.

The Nash Neighbors committee agrees with Principal Bob Hehli about this amazing community of St. Mark's that continues to support Nash even during COVID-19. Each effort we make shares the love of Christ with a community that is so deserving and grateful.

Nash Neighbors Committee



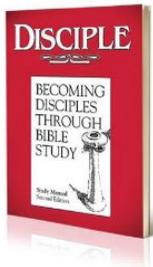
Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

ALL REGISTRATION IS ONLINE AT <https://umcstmarks.org> then go to Classes and then select Adult Spiritual Growth Opportunities.

Facilitators will then email you with specific information needed for each opportunity.

Spring Spiritual Formation Opportunities



"Disciple Bible Study 1: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study" If you have been hesitating to take this study, do not put it off any longer. It is LIFE-CHANGING and may be just the thing you need to help you through these difficult times. This overview of the Bible shows the over-arching steadfast and sustaining love of God. It will draw you

closer to God and to Christ.

It is a 34-week study and is being offered Sundays this spring and finishing in the fall. Schedule will be made based on preference of participants.

Facilitator: Rev. Judy Boroto. Study books \$35 through St. Mark's. Scholarships available. If you have questions please contact Judy Boroto (see directory).



"The Dangerous Act of Loving Your Neighbor: Seeing Others Through the Eyes of Jesus" by Mark Labberton (2010). 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 11 – Feb. 15 (six weeks). Are we able to see others with the eyes of Jesus? Seeing rightly is the beginning of renewal, forgiveness, healing and grace. Seeing rightly is the beginning of how our hearts are changed. This

is a well-researched volume filled with hope and encouragement for Christians who want to seek justice and help fulfill God's purpose of establishing a kingdom free of abuse of power toward people.

The study will be facilitated by Kathy Narney, a spiritual director and member of St. Mark's UMC. Books available: Amazon paperback \$15; Kindle \$13.50.

Ongoing Classes by Zoom and Email

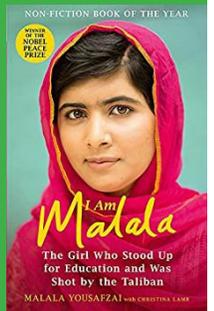
These classes are open to all people at any time. Contact the facilitators to join.

- "Starting the Week the Right Way," 9-10 a.m. Mondays, led by Roger Pierce on Zoom. Scripture selections are read during the week and then discussed in a group.
- "Thoughts to Ponder," led by Linda Walker via email. Quotes on a given topic are sent to participants, who then reflect and email their thoughts to the entire group.
- Wednesday Morning Study Group, 10-11:30 a.m. weekly, led

Open Minds Book Group

Book discussion led 9-10:30 a.m. monthly on a Friday by Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban.

Dec. 18: "I Am Malala," by Malala Yousazai (2013). When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan and implemented rules forbidding education for girls and women, Malala Yousafzai refused to be silent. She openly advocated for her right to attend school and at age 15 was shot in the face by the Taliban. But even that did not stop her fight on behalf of women around the world. Malala's determination and perseverance eventually led to her receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. Amazon: paperback \$8.65; Kindle \$9.99; Barnes & Noble \$9.49.



Jan. 29: "The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland," by Jim Defede (2002). Thirty-eight jetliners bound for the United States were forced to land at Gander International Airport in Canada by the closing of U.S. airspace on Sept. 11, 2001.

Feb. 26: "Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust," by Immaculeé Ilibagiza (2014). Ilibagiza's idyllic world was ripped apart as Rwanda descended into a bloody genocide. This memoir tells the inspiring story of this young woman's prayerful journey through the darkness of terror and anger to the peace of love and forgiveness.

March 26: "Little Fires Everywhere," by Celeste Ng (2017). This riveting novel explores the dangers of class privilege in a small community, the weight of family secrets, the nature of art and identity, the ferocious pull of motherhood, and the delusion that following the rules can avert disaster.

April 30: "The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story," by Hyeonseo Lee (2015). At age 17, Lee escaped from North Korea and fled to China. This memoir offers insight to life in one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships as well as one woman's terrifying struggle to guide her family to freedom.



by Marcia Rostad.

- Seekers, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Sundays, led by Kelly Deyoe and Brenda Hunter on Zoom. A study Bible of any translation is recommended.
- Sharing & Family Life, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sundays, led by Terry Majewski and Rick Farnsworth on Zoom. NO MEETING on Dec. 27. After completing the Advent study, the class will discern what they are to study in January. Keep a watch for information in the Sunday bulletin and January newsletter.

Update from Worldwide Christian Support Task Force

Voice of the Martyrs – Part 2

In 1945, the Russians had driven the Nazis out of Romania and were taking steps to control all aspects of Romanian government and society. To garner support among the clergy, the Russians summoned the Romanians to a meeting of all religious faiths, hoping to get them to publicly speak in favor of the new government and to not oppose future actions of the State.

Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand had been invited to attend because Richard was a well-known Lutheran minister and an official representative of the World Council of Churches. As the meeting progressed, neither Richard nor Sabina bought into the claim that communism and God could peacefully coexist, but many others spoke in support of the State out of fear for their families, their jobs and their salaries. Finally, at Sabina's considerable urging and knowing that he was putting the two of them at great risk, Richard asked to speak to the assembly of religious leaders. He reminded those gathered that their duty was not to praise earthly men or leaders who come and go, but to praise God the Creator and Christ the Savior. He encouraged his fellow leaders to place their trust and obedience in God and not in man. The audience applauded him, but the communists cut off his microphone and got him off the stage as quickly as they could. In the ensuing chaos, Richard was able to sneak out the back before anyone could apprehend him, but from that day forward for the next 20 years, the Wurmbrands' life would not be the same.

Despite Richard's statements, no official move was made against him, but hecklers appeared at his church services. These actions became more pronounced as time progressed, and by late 1947 the arrest of Christians was occurring more frequently and the Wurmbrands knew many who had gone to prison. They had great concerns about what might happen to their 8-year-old son, Mahai, if they went to prison but decided they needed to continue their ministry. In late February 1948, Richard was finally arrested and spent much of the next 17 years in prison, often in solitary confinement. Things were not much better for Sabina. As the wife of a political prisoner, she could not work and had difficulty putting together regular



meals for herself and her son. Eventually, she decided to send Mahai to live with friends in the country so he would be safe in case she was arrested. When the officials finally came for her, she was happy that she had protected Mahai. Sabina spent a minimum of two difficult years in prison. During this time she

was a witness for Christ to other prisoners, despite enduring constant harassment from prison officials. Upon her release in 1953, Mahai rejoined her, and they were forced to live on the charity of others due to Richard's prisoner status. Richard was released from prison in 1956, and they had three years together before he was rearrested in 1959. He spent six more years in prison and was finally ransomed for the sum of \$10,000 in December 1965 by the Norwegian Mission to the Jews and the Hebrew Christian Alliance. A more detailed account of the Wurmbrands' saga can be found in Sabina's story in the book, "Hearts of Fire," which is available in the St. Mark's library as a gift from Ellen Beene.

In the end, the Wurmbrands wanted to remain in their homeland of Romania, but the believers in the underground church convinced them to go so they could be a voice for those who were being persecuted for their faith. In 1967, Richard, Sabina and Mahai arrived in the United States. Though under death threats from the communists, they immediately became a voice for their brothers and sisters whose faith was under fire. In October 1967, they wrote the first issue of the "Voice of the Martyrs" newsletter, which continues to be published monthly and distributed around the world in multiple languages. Until their deaths in 2000 and 2001, they labored tirelessly to share a message of hope and love in the face of persecution and martyrdom.

If you would like more information about persecuted Christians or would like to join the Worldwide Christian Support Task Force, email us at christiansupport@umcstmarks.org or mail us a note to the church office, 1431 W. Magee Road, Tucson AZ 85704.

Sign Up for Church Communications

We've been physically apart for much of this year. We have all learned new ways to communicate and re-learned some good, "old-fashioned" ones. In all of our phone calling, letter writing, emailing and video chatting, we have learned that many of our members either aren't receiving certain communications or don't even know about them! Below is a list of directories, email communications and snail mail communications of which you could be a part. If you would like to opt in (or out) of any of them, please send an email to info@umcstmarks.org. **If you are already receiving what you want and don't want to make any changes, you do not need to contact the office.**

Directories (to add your info)

Printed Church Member Directory (Name, address, phone)
Printed Email Directory (Name and email)

Email (to receive info)

Pastor's Weekly Message
Prayer Chain
Prayers and Condolences
Online Messenger

Snail Mail (to receive info)

Printed Messenger
Holiday Mailings
Special Mailings

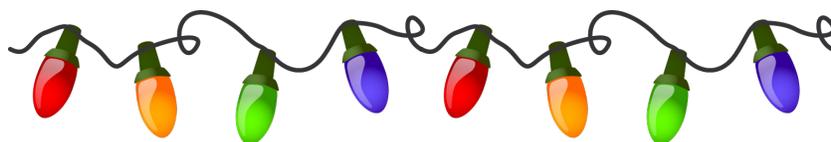
Also, if your address, phone number, or email have changed in the past year and you haven't already done so, please let us know so we can keep our records as up-to-date as possible! Have a safe and special Advent season and stay in touch!

December prayer requests

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

https://umcstmarks.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/monthlyprayerlist_web12.20.pdf

- ✝ Give thanks for all who returned their 2021 Commitment cards, pledging support for the operation of, and all the work and ministries of, St. Mark's United Methodist Church.
- ✝ Give thanks for the Advent devotion booklet, "An Advent Vision: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love," written by Pastor Evy – as many of us read and pray with it each day.
- ✝ Give thanks and ask God's blessings for all those who are participating in various adult Advent studies, using the book, "Incarnation," by Rev. Adam Hamilton.
- ✝ Pray for Pastors Sharon, Stuart, Evy and Kim as they continue to provide ministry, leadership and care for our congregation, and as some aspects of the COVID-19 shutdown are tightened again. Pray for their good health, safety and well-being in all situations. May they feel God's presence and know His love for them each day.
- ✝ Pray that we, and all members of our community continue to care for ourselves, our family members, friends and each other by wearing masks, staying socially distanced and washing our hands any time we are out and about. Ask God's help that we continue to stay home as much as possible.
- ✝ Ask God's blessings, new strength and energy for all doctors, nurses and hospital workers caring for increasing numbers of COVID patients. Pray for their individual health and safety and for needed medicines and treatments to be available as needed.
- ✝ Give thanks for the new COVID vaccines that are being tested, and pray for wise decisions from health and government officials in the acceptance and distribution of the vaccines in the United States and around the world.
- ✝ Pray God's blessings for the St. Mark's in-person outdoor worship services continuing at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings in December. Ask God's presence and love to be with the pastors and staff, and all those facilitating and attending these services. NOTE: These are small-group size, and everyone needs to register online each week to attend.
- ✝ Ask God's blessing for continuing the prerecorded Sunday worship services, as many in the congregation and other visitors and friends participate in online worship each week.
- ✝ Give thanks for the congregation's ongoing donation of non-perishable food items for the Interfaith Community Services food bank. NOTE: Collection of items is in the north parking lot -- Magee Road side, on Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 10-11 a.m.
- ✝ Pray for good attendance at the harp concert from 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 in the St. Mark's Meditation Gardens.
- ✝ Ask God's blessings for the online St. Mark's Musical Christmas Celebration beginning at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20. NOTE: Online connections will be via the church website, YouTube and Facebook.
- ✝ Pray for good attendance and God's blessings for all of the St. Mark's Christmas Eve services that will be held online this year (via the church website, YouTube and Facebook) at 11 a.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24. Pray also for a successful livestream of the 8 p.m. service with good attendance in the south parking lot.
- ✝ Pray God's blessings and love to surround Pastor Evy as she retires from her ministry at/with St. Mark's at the end of December. Give thanks for her dedication, leadership and ability to show God's love and care to all of us through the years.



Missions Update

The Missions Committee continues to make disbursements to our mission partners, thanks to our congregation's generous support. In November, we dispersed checks to Primavera for \$1,500, Worldwide Christian Support Task Force for \$300, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund for \$750 and the Associate Pastors' Discretionary Fund for \$500.

Members of St. Mark's continue to generously support the Interfaith Community Services food bank. For the foreseeable future we will continue our twice weekly food collections (10-11 a.m. Tuesday and Saturday mornings). Considering the pandemic and economic uncertainties, food security is an ongoing problem for far too many families in our area. Our recent Advent Caravan collected more than 1,500 pounds for ICS. We've far surpassed our original 10,000 pound goal, and we expect to reach 15,000 pounds by the end of 2020.

After chairing the Missions Committee the past three years, I will step down at the end of the year. Thanks to all – committee liaisons, staff and church members for your support and encouragement. In my experience, well-chosen new leaders bring fresh perspectives, new ideas, renewed enthusiasm and new committee members. I have appreciated working with Margaret Synhorst, our staff liaison, and Ruth Kester, our church administration and finance coordinator; both are dedicated professionals and are good at their jobs. St. Mark's new Missions Committee chair is John Yost. John is a longtime member of St. Mark's who comes with a great love and energy for missions. He has taken the lead in greatly elevating the St. Mark's food collection for ICS. Please join me in supporting John and wishing him every success.

Pat Kittrell, Chair

ICS Food Bank Update

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated to our Interfaith Community Services Food Bank collection effort this year. Our congregation donated more than 1,500 pounds of food during our recent Advent Caravan event, and we have collected almost 14,000 pounds for the year! Our efforts have helped to feed thousands of families in need in our community and keep the shelves at the ICS Food Bank stocked during these difficult times.

ICS is very appreciative of our efforts. I received a note from the food bank coordinator at ICS this week thanking us and also asking that we please continue our work as we are making a big impact.

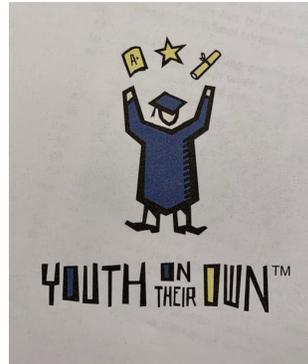
We plan to continue our normal collection hours from 10-11 a.m. on Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Bring your non-perishable items to the north parking lot, where a safe collection process is in place.

Nearly one in four families in Pima County is suffering from food insecurity, which means they are uncertain where their food requirements for the next day will come from. The urgency to help our food banks to supply this need is great.

We are providing very important help. Thanks again for your past and ongoing support. Peace.

John Yost, ICS Liaison

Thank You From YOTO



Following your generous donations of cleaning supplies collected for Youth on Their Own in November to help homeless students keep their living spaces safer, we received the following note: "Dear Lorri – Your donations to our 'Operation Clean Sweep' campaign mean so much to our students. We thank you for your generosity! Sincerely, Michael, YOTO Volunteer"

Lorri Jordan, YOTO Liaison

Thank You From TIHAN

A BIG thank you to everyone who donated items for Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network clients' Care Packages for the November Poz Café. Thank you also for all the donated gift cards or Christmas gifts that will be distributed to TIHAN clients in December. They really appreciate your generosity and can't thank you enough for making their holidays brighter. Please save all the free 2021 calendars you receive in the mail. We will collect these calendars from 10-11 a.m. on December Tuesdays in the north parking lot at church. All calendars will be distributed to the TIHAN clients. THANK YOU!

Linda Girard, TIHAN Liaison



Youth Ministry

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



St. Mark's Youth Advent 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Do a chore without being asked	2 Find a fun Hot Chocolate Recipe to try!	3 Make a Christmas Video to share with Rachel!	4 Challenge your family to a marshmallow fight	5 Watch your favorite Christmas Movie!
6 Serve Communion during Church	7 Do a chore without being asked	8 Make a Christmas ornament with stuff you find	9 Walk around your neighborhood, pick up trash	10 Make a Christmas card for a neighbor	11 Offer to help make dinner	12 Mail a hand written letter to someone
13 YOUTH GROUP!	14 Tell someone three things you love about them	15 Do a Random Act of Kindness	16 Thank a teacher for teaching you!	17 Make a handmade Christmas card	18 Take a driving tour of Christmas lights	19 Drop off food for ICS at church 10-11
20 Watch church online	21 Tell someone three things you love about them	22 E-mail a pastor to wish them Merry Christmas!	23 Do a Random Act of Kindness	24 Go to Drive In Worship!	25 Merry Christmas!!	26

What is Advent?

Did you know that in the Christian church, we have a calendar? It's a little different than the monthly calendar you have on the wall (or in your phone) though. The calendar I'm talking about isn't based on the 12 months of the year. Instead of starting on Jan. 1, this calendar starts on the first Sunday of Advent (four Sundays before Christmas). Advent is the season right before Christmas. The season of waiting for what is to come! What do you do to help you wait? Check out this fun Advent Calendar from Rachel and Kim. Each day has an activity or service project you can do!

December Birthdays

- 12/03—Chase Laos
- 12/05—Addison DaDeppo
- 12/11—Lisa DeDeppo
(Sunday School Teacher)
- 12/14—Alex Carston
- 12/19—Landon Tate



Sippin' Over Scripture



This has been such a weird year, hasn't it? Many of you are still learning at home, at least for half of the week. And hybrid school really isn't the same as what we are used to. What are you doing for you!? Once a month, High School Youth (grades 9-12) have the opportunity to meet with

Kim for some time to touch base, chat and read Scripture. Let Kim know that you are coming on Dec. 13, and meet her at the Meditation Garden with your chair and mask!



Confirmation News

We are almost halfway through this year's Confirmation class – our first-ever Zoom-based, virtual Confirmation. Thank you to you amazing Confirmation students for showing up and being patient! You rock!



Middle School Games



YOUTH GROUP

The Middle School Youth (grades 6-8) have been meeting monthly for games. From typing with our noses to rock, paper, scissors EXTREME, we have had so much fun! The fun will continue from 4-5 p.m. Dec. 13 in the backyard of the Wesley

House! Bring your chair, a mask and your own water bottle and be ready to have some fun!



Greetings, Preteens,

Welcome to Advent! Advent is the four weeks leading up to Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birth. Each week we light a candle to help us prepare for this amazing event. The first two candles lit are Hope and Peace. Next we light the third candle of Joy and then the candle of Love. On Christmas Eve we will light the Christ candle. While you wait for Christmas and to light the final Advent candles, be sure to read the weekly preteen emails for discussions, Scripture, crafts and activities to help you celebrate while you wait. These emails have fun activities to do with your family to celebrate Advent and prepare for Christmas!

Be sure also to check the weekly email for information regarding our next in-person gathering, which will be Dec. 13! It was lots of fun last time. You don't want to miss it. If you would like to be added to the preteen (fourth and fifth grade) email list, email me at *(see directory)*.

Blessings – Julie

Thank You from Nash Neighbors



More good news for which to be thankful! Even with our limited contact because of COVID-19, we are grateful to report that you have made it possible to give Nash principal, Bob Hehli, \$6,300 in \$25 gift cards. That is 252 cards and 59 more cards than we collected last year. This

project allows the principal to identify families in need and assist them by giving them some gift cards to make Christmas possible for their children. Thank you, St. Mark's, once again for your commitment to Nash Elementary and Nash families.

Sue Pierce, Nash Neighbors Liaison

Prayer Shawl Ministry News

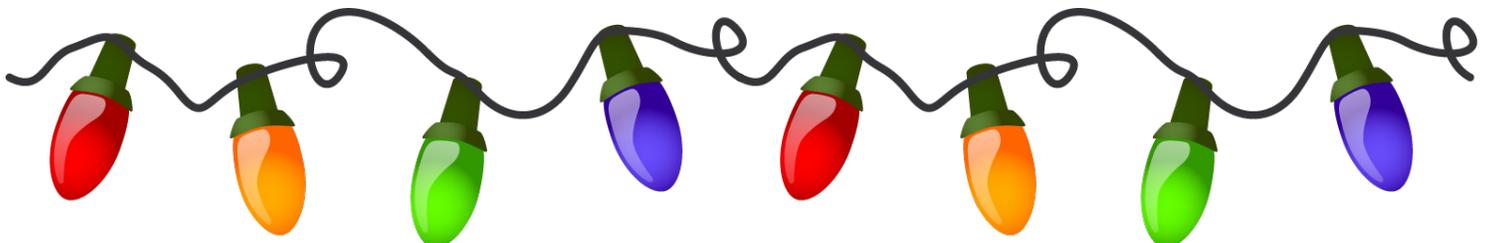
Charlotte Bowers is stepping down as chair of the Prayer Shawl Ministry after many years of dedicated service. We thank her for all her time in making this ministry successful and for staying on as a member. Patricia Duryee has volunteered to try to fill her shoes.

Even though we have not been meeting this year, our volunteers have been making prayer shawls, baby afghans, 8" squares for Africa, and pocket prayer shawls. We recently sent 90 8" squares to Africa and gave 35 prayer shawls to veterans, and we have many available for pastors to hand out to those needing comfort, as well as to use for baptisms and red shawls for confirmands.

Donations are always welcome and will be used to buy yarn. We also welcome volunteers who like to knit or crochet. Contact Patricia at *(see directory)*.

St. Mark's Quilters Keep Quilting

Our St. Mark's Quilters group has been Zoom meeting weekly on Thursdays since not long after the COVID-19 shutdown. A few weeks later, we decided we would continue making lap-sized quilts, but in our own homes. When we were meeting on campus, we would each work on a part of the quilt and then pass it on for the next step. We have continued that process by some of us meeting briefly in the church parking lot, with our masks and social distancing, to pass the quilts on to the next person. Since the beginning of April, we have donated 146 quilts to Emerge!, Aviva, four shut-ins and Healthy Families. Soon we will donate more than 75 quilts to Aviva, which will give them to foster children at Christmas.



Welcome, new members! Class of October 2020

Cut out this page and add it to your church directory



Bob and Jean Burton

Bob and Jean retired to Tucson five years ago. Bob is interested in astronomy and Jean enjoys Tohono Chul. They happen to live right next door to their sponsors, Jim and Ardyce Johnson!



Ryan Jackson

Ryan is a certified gunsmith and shooting instructor, active hunter and avid outdoorsman. He is sponsored by his beautiful fiancée, Jazmin Cunha.



David and Jenny Roberts

David and Jenny are originally from Ohio! Dave is from Hamilton and Jenny is from Cleveland. They are both avid Ohio State fans! Dave and Jenny are sponsored by Lezley Barth.



Pam Fuller

Pam comes to us from Orlando, FL via Alaska! Pam is active with her social sorority, Beta Sigma Phi. She is sponsored by Mary Lou Hawkins.

Advent Caravan a Great Beginning to Advent Season

It has been months since we have been able to be together in the same physical space as a church family, but on Nov. 22, that changed for a few moments as we celebrated the beginning of Advent. People drove through the parking lots and supported the church for 2021 by turning in commitment cards, and they gave to the ICS food bank. They received an Advent box and possibly a study book or children's gift. But most of all, we had the opportunity to be the church together for the first time in a long time. What a blessing it was.

In two hours, we distributed 145 Advent Boxes to 145 cars, gave 36 gifts to children and distributed 55 Advent study books. Also in two hours, we collected 50 stewardship commitment cards and more than 1,500 pounds of food for ICS. That's amazing!

Thank you to all of the volunteers and participants for making this such a special event. Here's to a very different – but still beautiful – Advent.



2020 Tax Credit Donation: St. Mark's ECC

Your generous tax credit donations allowed many of our kindergarten students to attend St. Mark's ECC's excellent program at a discounted rate and/or tuition-free. By making a tax credit donation for 2020 you can receive a dollar-for-dollar credit on your Arizona state income tax bill. Please consider making a tax credit donation to help our 2021/2022 students.

Go to <https://ibescholarships.org> to make your tax credit donation, or you may pick up a donation brochure and envelope in the Early Childhood Center office. You can also call the school office at 520-797-2925 for more information. Tax credits for the 2020 tax year can be made any time until April 15, 2021 or when you file your 2020 tax return, whichever date is earlier. Thank you for your support of a great education!



Reminder: Save the Date



St. Mark's UMC
1431 W. Magee Road
Tucson, AZ 85704
(520) 297-2062

Email:
info@umcstmarks.org
Website:
www.umcstmarks.org

Lead Pastor:
Rev. Sharon Ragland
Associate Pastors:
Rev. Stuart Salvatierra
Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald

Sunday Worship
Livestreamed
9:45 a.m.
umcstmarks.org
Facebook
YouTube

Did that feel like a particularly rough presidential election to you? Are you are wondering what you can do to help heal the country after the next president is sworn in? As mentioned in the October Messenger, we will be offering a nonpartisan prayer service on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, the evening of Inauguration Day. We will offer prayers for healing, unity and guidance for all our leaders and our community. More information about the format will become available when the day comes closer. - Brenda Hunter

2021 Messenger schedule online

The 2020 **Messenger** schedule is available on the website. On the home page, [https://umcstmarks.org/](https://umcstmarks.org) scroll down to Deadlines & Archived Newsletters under the Newsletters heading.

The first issue publishes on Jan. 6, 2021 and the deadline to submit information is Dec. 31, 2020. Submit information for the **Messenger** to messenger@umcstmarks.org.

Christmas Poinsettias: Last Chance to Order!



Celebrating a St. Mark's tradition, the sanctuary will be decorated with red and white poinsettias during Christmas. Contributions toward the Christmas poinsettias can be made in honor or memory of someone by completing the form below and mailing it with your check to the church office by Dec. 14. The flower form can also be filled out electronically and your donation made under "Holiday Flowers" at <https://umcstmarks.org/giving>. The form and check can also be dropped off at the office after calling to confirm office hours. (mailing address: St. Mark's UMC, 1431 W. Magee Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704 or website: www.umcstmarks.org)

The suggested donation of \$15 will help purchase the poinsettias; any money over and above the cost of the flowers will go into the Worship Committee's Flower Fund. Traditionally, WC has used the Flower Fund to purchase actual items for various Tucson charities to help serve their constituents; we try not to duplicate the Missions Committee's disbursements. In the past the Flower Fund purchased a washer and dryer for The Inn shelter housed at First United Methodist Church.

On Sunday, Dec. 20, the poinsettia commemorative list will accompany the online bulletin; copies of the bulletin and list will be available by mail to the flower donors (see form). After Christmas the poinsettias can be picked up at the office before noon on Jan. 4 and 5. After these dates the remaining flowers will be distributed to the homebound.

Please PRINT clearly.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

I am contributing \$ _____ toward the purchase of poinsettias for the sanctuary.

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Please circle whether you would like a mailed copy of the commemorative list: YES or NO

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.

*Jared Bowman and family
Deb Cushman
Jim Deyoe
Judy Drescher*

*April DuBoce
Marge Frazer
Keith and Mary Ann Glazier
Mary Sanders*

*Ana Luisa Terrazas
Carol Underwood
Jackie Vickers
Lindsay Williams*

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to:

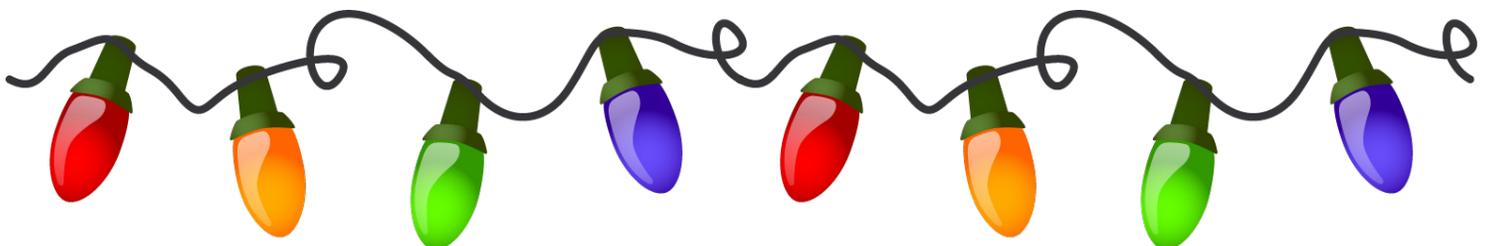
- Linda Hill and her family at the passing of Linda's Mom, Patricia.
- The wife, daughters and son of Robert Raynor, who died Thursday, Nov. 12. His wife, Cindy, daughters, Lisa and Rebecca and son, Brett, as well as to the family's many friends are in our hearts. Memorial services are pending.
- The family of Ray Fisher, a member of St. Mark's, who died the night of Nov. 16-17 from complications stemming from COVID-19. He had recently moved to Las Cruces, NM to be closer to his brother as his already frail health got worse. We ask that you please hold the Fisher family in your prayers as they experience this loss in this complicated time. Ray's ashes will be interred at St. Mark's at a later date. Service dates celebrating Ray's life are not yet planned. We will keep you informed as the information becomes available.
- Bill Wickham on the passing of his wife, Judy, early on the morning of Nov. 18. Our love and prayers are with their family and many friends. During her life, Judy faithfully served God and others. Services are pending.
- The family of our sister in Christ, Sandra Rush, who departed this world to be with our Lord early in the morning Saturday, Nov. 21. As of right now there are no plans for a memorial service but we will inform everyone as plans are made.
- Janelle and Terry Holyoak and family on the passing of Janelle's father, Rodney Earl Hull. Rev. Hull was an elder in the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church. We ask for prayers of comfort for his family.
- Marcia Rostad on the passing of her mother, Jean Rostad, in Minot, ND on Monday, Nov. 30, from COVID-19. We ask God to wrap Marcia and her family in God's comforting love.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

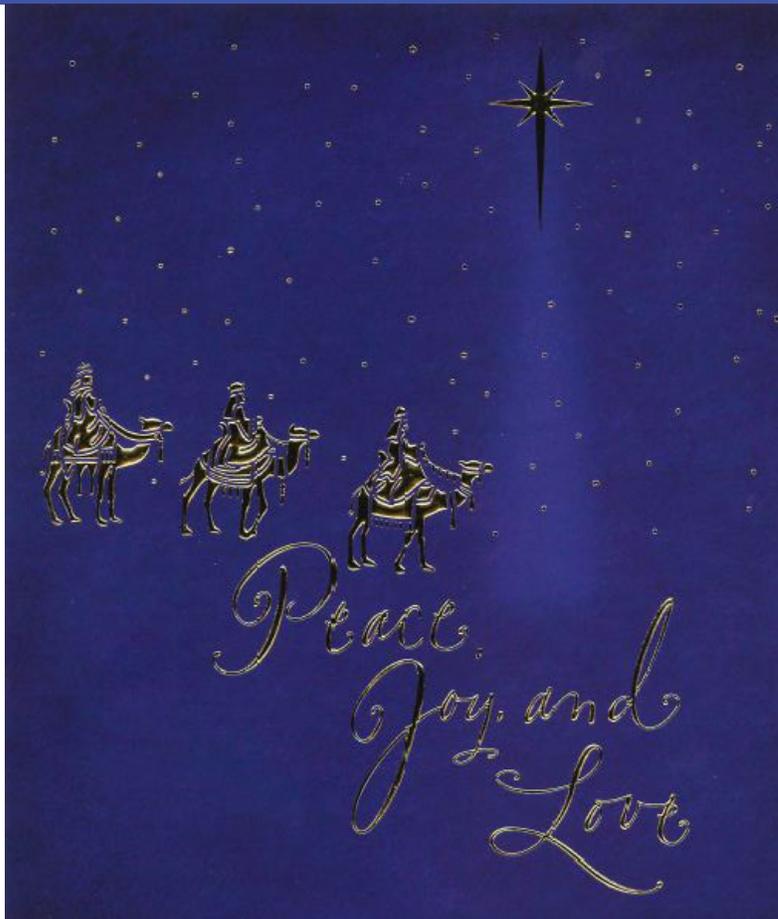
Please keep these people in your prayers. Email additions or updates to messenger@umcstmarks.org.

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
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



Address Service Requested



Christmas blessings from the office staff at St. Mark's UMC!

