

# Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

Volume 61, Number 4

March 3, 2021



## Holy Week & Easter Services SCHEDULE

### HOLY WEEK

#### March 28 – Palm & Passion Sunday

- Recorded musical Cantata with Holy Week Scripture readings and poetry: **What Kind of King? ... Strengthened by Christ**, music by Chancel Choir and others, with Scripture readings and poetry to guide us into Holy Week. Recorded to premiere at 9:45 a.m. March 28 via the church website, [umcstmarks.org/live-worship](http://umcstmarks.org/live-worship); YouTube UMC St. Mark's Oro Valley; or Facebook St. Mark's UMC Tucson.
- **Journey to the Cross** begins at noon. See more info on this page.

#### March 31 – Soul Station Wednesday Worship

- 6:30 p.m. – Conclusion of the Lent study on "Lent in the Old Testament Prophets." Request a Zoom link at [info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org).

#### April 1 – Maundy Thursday

- 7 p.m. service of worship, an experience of the last day of Jesus' life before his crucifixion, with music, readings and Holy Communion. This will be livestreamed from the Sanctuary with only worship leaders present. Join us on any of our three online platforms or drive in to the south parking lot to watch on our large, inflatable screen as it is presented live from the Sanctuary.

#### April 2 – Good Friday

- 7 p.m. recorded service – "The Way of the Cross." Walk our church's meditation garden's "Way of the Cross," narrated and led by our confirmation class. Includes poetry from the work of the late Rev. Cynthia Langston Kirk and drawings by Rev. Amy Barron Gafford, as well as music to guide us in this time of reflection on this somber day. Join us on any of our three online platforms to attend.

### April 4 – The Celebration of Easter!

Two recorded services for the celebration of new life at Easter, on the topic, **Love Is ... Accepting New Life!** based on John 20:1-18

- Log on to these services via the church website, [umcstmarks.org/live-worship](http://umcstmarks.org/live-worship); YouTube UMC St. Mark's Oro Valley; or Facebook St. Mark's UMC Tucson.
- 6:30 a.m. With messages from our graduating seniors, plus leadership from other youth, along with music and Holy Communion and a message by Pastor Sharon.
- 9:45 a.m. A service of music, message by Pastor Sharon, children's time, prayer and the celebration of Holy Communion.

### "Lent at Lunch"

Join us for a two-minute message by one of the pastors at noon every Monday, Wednesday and Friday throughout Lent on Facebook or Instagram @umcstmarks.



## Drive-Through Journey to the Cross

YOU are invited!

This past year has been like no other. This is sure to be a Holy Week like no other, too. Join your church family

for a socially distanced twist on Holy Week!

Everyone in our St. Mark's family is invited to the church parking lot on Palm Sunday, March 28, anytime between noon and 2 p.m. for a drive-through Journey to the Cross! There is something for everyone at this fun event. Pick up your Easter basket at the beginning and then greet your pastors as you experience a journey from the joyous celebration of Palm Sunday through the ever-more-somber days leading up to Good Friday.

Your Easter basket will have an egg for each day of Holy Week, with a scripture to focus your thoughts for the day and a fun activity, suitable for all ages. Each day will bring a new way to observe this journey we will be on together. Supplies are limited. We hope to see you there!

# Easter Flowers



Celebrating a St. Mark's tradition, the Easter altar will be decorated with spring flowers. Contributions toward the flowers 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 March 24. The flower form can be filled out electronically (go to the St. Mark's website, then to the Resources tab, and to Forms) and your donation made to "Holiday Flowers" under the "Giving" tab on the website, or the form and check can be mailed to or dropped off at the office. (Please call 520-297-2062 to confirm office hours.) Address: St. Mark's UMC, 1431 W. Magee Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704. Website: [www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org).

The suggested donation of \$15 will help purchase the flowers; any money over and above the cost of the flowers will go into the Worship Committee's Flower Fund. WC uses the Flower Fund to purchase actual items for various local charities to help serve specific needs; we try not to duplicate the Missions Committee's disbursements. In the past, the Flower Fund purchased bedding, bed frames and headboards to furnish the visiting doctor facility on the medical campus of Aqua Prieta church in Sonora.

On Easter Sunday, April 4, the commemorative list will accompany the online bulletin; copies of the bulletin and list will be available by mail to the flower donors (see below). **On Easter Sunday, the spring flowers can be picked up between noon and 5 p.m. from the courtyard outside the Sanctuary, or ring the bell at the office door between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday or 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday to pick up the flowers.** (Church staff is off on the Monday after Easter.)

## Maintenance Coordinator Position Job Opening!

St. Mark's is seeking a new Facilities Maintenance Coordinator. The selected individual will be a self-starter responsible for opening and inspecting the campus Monday through Friday. The position provides maintenance services for the church and preschool buildings and associated systems. Knowledge and ability of preventive maintenance techniques and safety protocols, basic repairs, painting, carpentry, plumbing, electrical systems and HVAC is required. Monitoring, communicating with and supporting outside contractors for custodial and landscape maintenance are required. Room and event setup, including setting tables and chairs, is an expectation. Intermediate computer skills are important. The maintenance coordinator is part of the St. Mark's Administrative Services Team and should be able to work in a team atmosphere and individually. A complete job description is available on our website at **ABOUT → JOB OPPORTUNITIES**. To apply for this position, please submit a cover letter, your resume and references to [info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org). If you have questions, contact Ruth Kester in the church office (297-2062).



### A reminder from the Animal Ministry:

**Keep Easter Lilies out of Your Home If You Have Cats!**  
<http://www.cathealth.com/toxic-items/easter-lilies-a-holiday-hazard-for-cats>

## Easter Flower Form

(Please print clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am contributing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward the purchase of Easter flowers for the Sanctuary.

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

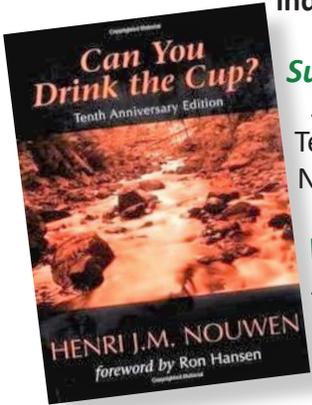
In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

**Lenten studies** are under way. Groups began on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, for the six-week Lenten season. This year, groups are studying Henri Nouwen's *Can You Drink the Cup?* Register at <https://umcstmarks.org/classes> and indicate which session you want.



## Sunday

**1 p.m. Family Life/Sharing**

Terry Majewski or Rick Farnsworth.  
No class on Easter (April 4).

## Wednesday

**10 a.m. Wed. Study Group**

Alberta Farnsworth

**Post-Lenten studies** to continue your spiritual journey:

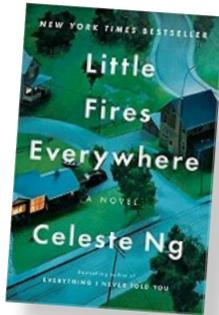
## Open Minds Book Discussion

Monthly on a Friday at 9 a.m.

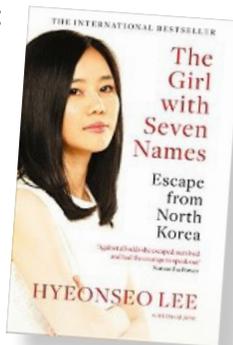
Led by Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban.

Register online at <https://umcstmarks.org/classes> and click "Adult Spritual Growth Opportunities."

- 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, Ms. 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.



## Odds and Ends ...

- **Membership 101 – Join Us on Tuesday, April 6!** Have you been thinking about membership at St. Mark's and wondering how to get more information and then join? From 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, Pastor Sharon and Tricia Chester, administrative assistant for hospitality, will lead a Membership 101 class via Zoom. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about St. Mark's – our priorities and plans, as well as history and United Methodist beliefs. Please register on the website – [umcstmarks.org](https://umcstmarks.org), under "Latest Update" or "Classes," where you'll find a tab for Membership 101. If you have questions, leave a message at 520-297-2062 and you will be contacted.

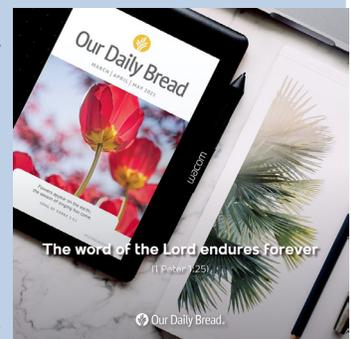
- **Market on the Move** returns 9-11 a.m. March 6 in the SOUTH parking lot! Enter from the La Cañada entrance and proceed to the produce pickup area, where packages will be placed in your trunk, then exit onto Magee. It's still 60 lbs. for a \$10 donation, cash only. Just hand the money out the window; no paperwork



is required. Health safety is very important. Volunteers are needed at 7 a.m. to help with packaging. If you are interested in volunteering, email [info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org).

- The St. Mark's UMC **Chronic Illness and Pain Support Group** meets from 10:30 a.m. to noon the second and fourth Wednesday of each month via Zoom. We offer a time of prayer during each meeting and time to share personal joys and concerns, as you are comfortable. We want to help each other whenever we can. 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 at [chronicillness@umcstmarks.org](mailto:chronicillness@umcstmarks.org) or call the church office at 520-297-2062. You do not have to be a member of St. Mark's to participate.

- Did you know you can find **Our Daily Bread** online? Our shipments to the church office have been delayed due to the weather and staff shortages. Please visit [www.odb.org](http://www.odb.org) to find Our Daily Bread's online offerings or to order devotionals straight to your mailbox.



- The **St. Mark's Rainbow Fellowship's** next meeting will be

at 9 a.m. Sunday, March 21 via Zoom. All who identify as LGBTQ – no matter age or membership status! – are welcome to join us for a half-hour of fellowship. Please contact Melinda Sims at [rainbow@umcstmarks.org](mailto:rainbow@umcstmarks.org) if you have any questions.

# It's a Great Time to Get Involved at St. Mark's UMC

## Open Positions on the Finance Committee

My wife and I joined St. Mark's early in 2016. We attended the 9:45 a.m. service, sitting in the same pew every week. Cara joined a Bible study group, but my church activity was limited to Sunday mornings; I played golf four days a week and didn't have time for much else. That fall I was asked to join the Finance Committee. It was the start of a wonderful journey. I have remained a member for the past four years and have even participated in some of the many Bible study classes St. Mark's offers. Now I play golf only once or twice a week; church activities keep me busy. This change has made my life much more meaningful.



My journey began when I was **asked** to join a committee. The St. Mark's Finance Committee currently has two open positions. I am **asking** you to join. If you would consider serving, please contact me. My telephone number and email are in the church directory. Or, contact the church office (520-297-2062), tell them you are interested in joining the Finance Committee, and leave your name and telephone number or email address; I will get in touch with you. St. Mark's is "Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people."

*Bill Zermuehlen, Finance Committee Chair*



## Update on HIV/AIDS Ministries

TIHAN, Strength for the Journey, Sunday Dinner Sale, POZ Café—these are some of the projects you probably have heard or read about as a participant in the family of St. Mark's.

You may have prepared or purchased food at a Sunday Dinner Sale. Did you know the money from that sale helped to provide scholarships for "Strength for the Journey," our Southwest Conference camp for men and women living with HIV/AIDS? You may have agreed to wear a red ribbon at church on the first Sunday of December. Did you know you were showing support for people living with HIV/AIDS? Have you bought a Christmas gift for a child whose family has been impacted by the physical and financial suffering that HIV/AIDS brings with it? Have you supported TIHAN (Tucson HIV/AIDS Network) by serving at a monthly POZ Café meal or by donating toilet paper, cleaning supplies or personal care products to TIHAN clients? All of these projects are part of the work of the St. Mark's HIV/AIDS Committee's ministry.

Since its inception in the early 1990s, this group has been committed to serving those who suffer and live with this disease. From the beginning of the committee, our devoted and beloved friend, Linda Girard, has led a small group of others dedicated to this mission. Now, as Linda leaves Tucson to join family in New Jersey, we want to celebrate her dedicated work on behalf of St. Mark's and this important ministry.



Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

a compassionate interfaith response to HIV/AIDS

The committee also would like for you to know we plan to continue this work. Given the current pandemic, our ministries may have to look a bit different for a while. Pat Small has graciously volunteered to be the St. Mark's liaison to both TIHAN and our own Missions Committee. Pat has also agreed to be the contact person for those willing to serve with us in this important ministry. Pat may be contacted by email ([see directory](#)). This committee is quite a small group, and we would truly like to welcome new members.

Thank you all for your support of our ministries in the past, and join us as we continue to respond to people and families living with HIV/AIDS.



## Message From the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has been working on the prioritization and planning of projects to be completed in 2021 at St. Mark's. The full list of potential projects is more than two dozen items long and includes everything from infrastructure replacements to remodeling of existing spaces. Once the projects were identified, estimated costs were assigned to each one and a project leader was assigned. Each member of the Board of Trustees takes responsibility for projects and manages them from start to finish.

While there are always more projects than there are funds, 2021 is an especially challenging cost environment. During the budgeting process the Finance Committee requested that all groups manage costs within a more strict and controlled manner so income and costs could be best aligned for all of St. Mark's. The Board then prioritized the projects to determine what could be accomplished during 2021 while meeting our financial commitments.

Some of the projects that rose to the top of the prioritization list are as follows:

- Replace carpeting in the choir room and other areas of the main office
- Repair and recoat the Wesley House roof
- Recoat the Sanctuary roof
- Replace several of the HVAC units that service the Sanctuary
- Repair the loading zone area in the south parking lot and improve the drainage

There are other projects that will be completed if both funding and time allow.

General maintenance projects continue to take place so the campus is ready when we start to reopen!

*John T. Cecilia, Board of Trustees Chair*



## Upcoming UMW Meeting



St. Mark's United Methodist Women will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 9 via Zoom. All women of the church are invited – you don't have to be a member of United Methodist Women, or St. Mark's United Methodist Church, or any church – all are welcome.

Our program will be the annual **Call to Prayer and Self-Denial** titled, "She Leads, Empowering Women to Make a Difference," along with information from UMW's Charter for Racial Justice to help us hear and understand ongoing racial tensions. There will be an opportunity for you to participate in an offering with the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program. We will mail our checks to St. Mark's UMW Treasurer Alice Brown (see directory).

If you have questions or need the Zoom link information to join the meeting, please contact UMW Secretary Kay Hayworth (see directory).

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## Join UMW's 'Holy Humor' Online Retreat

**Saturday, March 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

The Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women plans an online retreat, "Holy Humor," on Saturday, March 20. It will be a time to relax, have fun, laugh, sing and learn the importance of Holy Humor in our lives! Rev. Ann Lyter, Scottsdale UMW, is the retreat leader.



All women are invited.

You don't have to be a member of United Methodist Women or St. Mark's or any church to participate.

Registration cost is \$10. Online registration is required by Monday, March 15. Go to <https://dscumc.org/secure/2021-umw-retreat-holy-humor/>

If you have trouble registering for the retreat, contact Kay Hayworth, St. Mark's United Methodist Women secretary (see directory).

## Missions Update from the Chair

The Missions Committee has approved the allocation of funds for the first quarter of 2021 to these organizations:

**Stand Up for Kids – \$2,500.** The mission of Stand Up for Kids is to end the cycle of youth homelessness. Staff and volunteers work to empower homeless and at-risk youth toward lifelong personal growth, and to create in these youth a sincere belief in themselves through open, straightforward counseling, mentoring and life-skills training.

**JobPath – \$1,500.** JobPath partners with colleges and job training centers to support students in two-year or less degree or certificate programs. It provides financial support and much more to get students across the finish line and into high wage careers. Pastor Sharon serves on the board of JobPath.

We have received several thank-you notes and letters from our mission partners that have recently received funds allocated by the Missions Committee. All are grateful for our help and they detail how our support is making a difference. These partners include: Wesley Foundation of Tucson, Nash Elementary School, TMM Family Services, Tu Nidito, UMCOR Global Ministries, Primavera Foundation, Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse, Open Doors and the Thornhill Lopez Center.

St. Mark's is bringing Christ to the world by taking our church out into the world. Thank you!

*John Yost, Missions Committee Chair*

## Local Produce for Local Seniors

As you may know, through the Missions Committee, St. Mark's donates money each year to the Community Food Bank. The following describes a new Food Bank program that makes use of donated funds from our church and others.



A project that brings healthy food to the most food-insecure seniors in our community, supports local farmers during an economic downturn and creates jobs for folks who are out of work due to the pandemic? Yes!

Your support has made that happen. Our new "Local Produce to Seniors" project is a partnership between the Community Food Bank, Pivot Produce and 10 local senior living facilities. Pivot Produce sources fresh produce from local farmers, packs it in bags and delivers the bags to low-income seniors who have been affected by the pandemic. Plus, each bag comes with new recipes to try and information about the farmers who grew their food.

To help with this new project, Pivot Produce has been able to hire folks from the service industry who have been out of work. It's a triple win for our community – and it's possible because of you!

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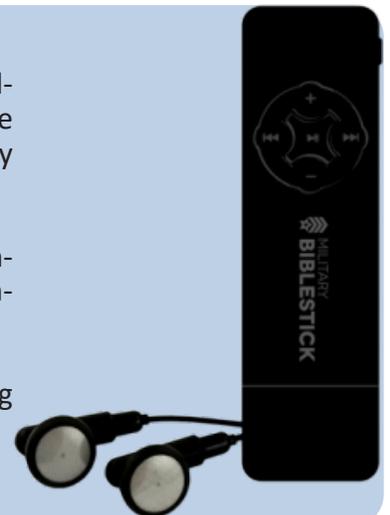
*Missions news continued on p. 9*

## Military Bible Sticks Up for Grabs

We have four Military Bible Sticks available to be given to members of our active duty military. These sticks are a digital audio player that is preloaded with an audio drama of the New Testament and selected chapters of Psalms. They are field-friendly with a low-key design that will easily fit in a pocket.

Past Military Bible Stick recipients have remarked how helpful they have been in maintaining a focus on the Bible and in keeping a positive attitude in otherwise difficult circumstances.

If you have a family member or friend on active duty who might benefit from receiving one, please contact the church office at 520-297-2062 or [info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org).



# Youth Ministry

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



## Adventures of the Youth Directors



### March Birthdays

March 6—*Moses Hala'ufia*  
March 10—*Isaac Hyde*



We find ourselves in the season of Lent right now. But what does that mean? You have probably all seen the video Kim and Rachel put out just before Ash Wednesday, right? Where they ex-

plained Lent? Or maybe you have watched the church's Instagram series, "Lent at Lunch." Either way, we hope you all have found a way to focus on your relationship with God in this season. Remember, sometimes this is done through sacrificing things that keep you from God (like gossip or something like that!) and sometimes, by adding a practice that draws you closer to God (like adding a devotion to your morning). What will YOU do to observe Lent?

Youth news continued on page 8

# Youth Ministry

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



## All Zoomed Out?

What a weird year. We have been doing everything online for almost a year now. It's crazy to think about. A year ago, if you had asked Rachel where she saw herself in a year, whatever she said, she would have been 100% wrong. With so much of our lives being on a screen, are you feeling "Zoomed Out"? Here are some tips we found that may help!



→Change your scenery! If you are working on a tablet or a laptop, try moving to a new spot. Stand up, at the counter, maybe.

→Try some journaling! On paper – not on a screen. Rachel really enjoys doodling in her journal. Give that a try!

→Avoid multitasking. It's so tempting to open another window and get twice as much work done, but that takes twice your brainpower, too! Focus on one task at a time.

→Get moving. Even if you just walk in laps around your backyard, do it! When you have a break, get that blood pumping!

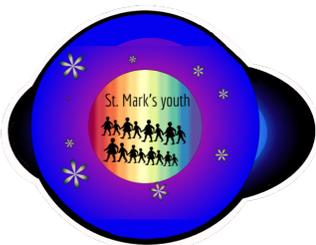
What do you do when you find yourself getting overwhelmed by the screen? Let us know what works for you, and we will share that with your fellow youth!

## Confirmation News

Confirmands: Mark your calendars! March 6 we will meet by appointment to record our parts for the video we discussed in class.

As we continue on your journey toward Confirmation, Kim and Rachel thank you (and your parents!) for your hard work and dedication to our class. We miss the in-person learning but are so glad we are able to continue the class!

## Youth Group News



In February, Middle and High School students joined forces to try their hands at a Hogwarts Escape Room! Through great teamwork, along with lots of laughter, we all managed to solve the puzzles and make it into our Common Room, to begin our first year at Hogwarts.

Good work, guys! Our next virtual Youth Group will be 4:30 p.m. March 21. See you then!

# St Mark's PRETEENS

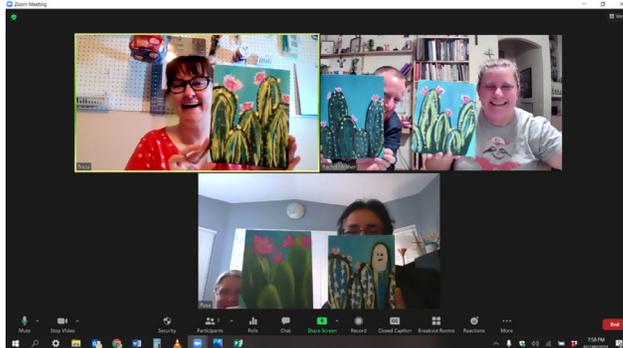
It is CRAZY to realize that it is March already. Even CRAZIER that this month it has officially been one year since COVID -19 turned our world upside down. With so many changes, it is comforting to focus on the familiar. March has a lot of familiar things we can focus on. This month the online Preteen activities will focus on Lent, March Madness, St. Patrick's Day, the first day of spring and Palm Sunday. Until we can safely meet in person, I will continue to send out weekly emails with FUN projects/crafts, recipes, challenges, games and of course thoughts on Scripture or discussion topics. If you are a fourth- or fifth-grader (or you know a fourth- or fifth-grader) and would like to be added to the Preteen email list, you may send me an email at ([see directory](#)) and I will be happy to add you to the list.

Over Rodeo break/week, the Preteens participated in a Rodeo themed scavenger hunt and sent me pictures of the items they found to receive prizes. I have a lot more fun activities planned for March so please check your emails!

*Blessings - Julie*

## Adults: Don't Miss the Fun at Common Grounds

In February, Common Grounds hosted a fun Paint Night! Members of Common Grounds picked up paint kits in advance that had everything needed to paint the painting, "The Cactus." At our monthly Saturday meeting, we all set up our paint areas, signed into Zoom and followed the directions on the video! We had a fun evening of painting, laughter and fellowship. Each painting looked different, and each of us had fun creating our masterpieces. Common Grounds has been meeting virtually throughout the last year, and if you are interested in joining this group of adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s, please email Rachel at [rachel@umcstmarks.org](mailto:rachel@umcstmarks.org). We meet on the third Saturday of the month.





## Update on The INN

Just when we had improved the bathrooms, had cots for everyone and improved the "gathering area" for conversation and TV viewing, along with other improvements that may not have been obvious at first glance, though they made such a difference to those using The INN – COVID-19 struck. The contagious nature of the virus soon meant we could no longer shelter immigrants in this church basement. Improving the air ventilation, on inspection, was found to be unaffordable. Other realities – adequate distancing for 50 individuals was not possible, asylum seekers were barred at the border – soon meant we had to temporarily close our doors.



However, nothing went to waste. Food in our freezers and on the shelves found their way to shelters in Nogales that formed to assist in the plight of the immigrants barred from seeking asylum in the U.S. We also sent clothing, toys, anything we could to help our Mexican neighbors with immigrants flood-

ing their city, blocked from entering our country. In addition, we donated some of our resources to help asylum seekers who have settled in the Tucson area.

We are optimistic a change is coming soon, but the question remains: How will we resume the INN's mission – what, where? The board has not been idle during this pandemic. Considering COVID-19, looking at other models, it seems for the time being, we will pay to use a very modest motel (at greatly reduced rates) where each family will be confined to an individual room. There can be no "community" of seekers in social or dining settings. The food service will look quite different and options are being considered. Once we identify the place and any resources available, we'll put our creative sources together. An example of a change: instead of allowing individuals to "shop" from the clothing we have available, all clothing will be sized and selected by volunteers, bagged and delivered to the families.

Meanwhile, First Church is allowing us to continue storing our items such as bed linens and clothing donations. It will be one brand-new, tentative step at a time. Temporarily a motel, but in the future, we will look for a permanent home. Your money donations are needed even now, sent the same way to Desert Southwest Conference. Expected expenses will be for room rentals and utilities, plus other needed items to set up the new location. The other request – a flood of uplifted prayers that we may welcome our brothers and sisters and that they may find safety within our borders.

## Thanks to You ... and Frank!

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Food Bank at Interfaith Community Services. We continue to be a leading faith community partner with ICS, and we are helping thousands of people suffering from food insecurity in our community. St. Mark's was recently recognized by the Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce for our support of the ICS Food Bank.

A story about Frank: Frank is an older, unassuming gentleman who lives near St. Mark's. Every Tuesday and Saturday morning, a little before 10 a.m., Frank can be seen pulling a wagon full of plants along Magee toward the entrance to our church. He stations himself by the church entrance and sells his plants during the same time we are collecting food for ICS. He has a lot of regular customers and he usually sells everything he has in less than an hour. Why is what Frank is doing pertinent to what we do at St. Mark's? Frank walks over to our Food Bank collection point every week and donates the money he collects from his plant sales to our Food Bank effort. We, as well as Pat and Robert Kittrell, then purchase food for the Food Bank with this money. His donations are normally around \$200 each month! When I asked Frank why he does this, he said, "I hate to see anyone go hungry." Praise for Frank and everyone helping those in need!

The Food Bank is happy to accept all donations of non-perishable food items. Items of greatest need are:

- peanut butter
- spaghetti sauce and noodles
- macaroni and cheese
- tuna

Our ICS Food Bank collection times remain: 10-11 a.m. every Tuesday and Saturday in the north parking lot. A safe collection process is in place.



## ***March 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/2021/03/monthlyprayerlist\\_web0321.pdf](https://umcstmarks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/monthlyprayerlist_web0321.pdf)

✚ Give thanks for Pastor Sharon – her ministry, friendship and leadership at St. Mark's United Methodist Church through the years. We can do this any time, every day – and especially now as she announced her retirement from active ministry as of June 30.

✚ Give thanks for the planned appointment of Rev. Lynn Bartlow to St. Mark's United Methodist Church on July 1. Ask God's blessing of this choice, and pray His continued guidance and preparation for our new leadership and the ministry we will have together.

✚ Pray for the new Sunday morning drive-in worship services in the south parking lot, through March 21. We will be able to stay in our vehicles and see/hear our pastors and musicians live and on stage. Ask God's blessings.

✚ Pray for St. Mark's hosting Market on the Move on Saturday morning, March 6, in our south parking lot. Ask God's protection as new safety procedures due to COVID-19 will be followed. Customers will drive-through to receive prepackaged fresh vegetables and fruits that will be placed in their vehicle trunks.

✚ Give thanks for the Lenten devotional booklet, "The Road Back to God," which can be picked up just outside the church office door. Pray for everyone participating in the all-church Lenten study using the book, "Can You Drink the Cup?"

✚ Pray for the Monday, Wednesday and Friday "Lent at Lunch" messages with one of our pastors, on Facebook or Instagram. Ask God's blessing of each session and all those who participate.

✚ Give thanks and ask God's blessings for the drive-through "Journey to the Cross" on Palm Sunday afternoon, March 28. We will receive a Holy Week/Easter themed box of daily activities, information, pictures, etc. There will also be five Holy Week – Journey of the Cross dramas for us to see.

✚ Pray for pastors Sharon, Stuart and Kim as they continue to provide ministry, leadership and care for our congregation as the COVID-19 shutdown continues. Pray for their individual health and safety in all situations. May they feel God's presence and know His love for them each day.

✚ Pray for the new St. Mark's Racial Equity Task Force, that it will find meaningful ways to introduce our congregation to issues pertaining to racial justice and how we may advocate for racial equity. Pray that our brothers and sisters of color will be safe and well, as they navigate the oppression and violence that has long plagued our country and world. Pray for an end to hate, remembering how Jesus called us to love one another.

✚ Ask God's blessings and new strength and energy for all doctors, nurses and health care workers as they care for large numbers of COVID-19 patients. Pray for their individual health and safety and that necessary hospital beds, medicines and treatments are available as needed.

✚ Give thanks for the COVID-19 vaccines. Pray they are safe and effective. Ask God's guidance and help as the vaccines are produced, delivered and made available to people. Pray God's help for people coping with difficult online registration processes, long travel distances, transportation issues and other delays and difficulties. Pray God's help keeping people safe and healthy as they wait for their age category, place of employment, and/or other factors, for them to be eligible for a vaccine.

✚ Pray God's healing power will surround all those with COVID-19 and other illness or health conditions. Pray for St Mark's members and friends who have had recent surgery or are waiting for surgeries/treatments to be scheduled, as well as those who are recovering at home or in care facilities.

✚ The Desert Southwest Conference encourages us to pray for other churches within our district each month. It is encouraging to know other churches are praying for and with each other. For March, we are asked to pray for South District churches Sierra Vista UMC in Sierra Vista, Christ Church United Methodist in Tucson and Menlo Park UMC in Tucson.

## PRAYER CORNER

We are a praying community at St. Mark's. Besides Sunday worship, you may submit prayer requests by email to [prayerchain@umcstmarks.org](mailto:prayerchain@umcstmarks.org).

Jared Bowman and family  
Deb Cushman  
Jim Deyoe  
Judy Drescher

April DuBoce  
Sondra Franks  
Marge Frazer  
Keith and Mary Ann Glazier  
Mary Sanders

Ana Luisa Terrazas  
Carol Underwood  
Jackie Vickers  
Lindsay Williams

## CONDOLENCES

**Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to:**

- Jeanne Padgitt and family on the passing of Jeanne's son, Duane, in Ohio on Jan. 11.
- The family and friends of Donna Porter, including Donna's daughter, Debbie Pursell, on Donna's death Feb. 1 in Loveland, Colo. Donna had been living there since last summer with her daughter. Condolences can be sent to Debbie Pursell, 1869 Grays Peak Dr. #201, Loveland, CO 80538.
- The family and friends of Chuck Milhiser, who died at home Thursday, Feb. 18. Please send your heartfelt prayers for comfort and strength for Sue and their family. Chuck and Sue were members of St. Mark's 23 years and Chuck especially enjoyed serving as a liturgist in worship.



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Email:  
[info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org)  
Website:  
[www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org)

Lead Pastor:  
Rev. Sharon Ragland  
Associate Pastor:  
Rev. Stuart Salvatierra  
Youth and Outreach Pastor:  
Kim Ogle

Sunday Worship  
Livestreamed  
9:45 a.m.  
[umcstmarks.org/live-worship](http://umcstmarks.org/live-worship)  
Facebook:  
St. Mark's UMC Tucson  
YouTube:  
UMC St. Mark's Oro Valley

### Dear Church Family...

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we send this "thank you" to Rev. Sharon, Rev. Stuart and Rev. Judy as well as to Dalene, Carla, the prayer chain and others who sent cards for all their love, prayers and concern for Joe and me. Joe is at home, but with upcoming doctor appointments, there will be more for us to learn. Continuing prayers will be very much appreciated as there is such power in prayer.

With again thanks and blessings to each one of you, *Joe and Nancy Franovic*

I was really blessed by so many beautiful get well cards and phone calls. My breast surgery went very well and tests show no more cancer at this time, for which I am so thankful. However, I will be taking medication to stop the growth of cancer in my breasts. Thanks again for blessing me and sustaining me through another cancer removal.

In Christian Love, *Lillian Porter*

The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be – *Thank you!* Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of the United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world ... sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need! Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors. Grace and peace, *Roland Fernandes, General Secretary, UMCOR*



Address Service Requested

## Reflections Breathe

"Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do." That song from our United Methodist hymnal is running through my mind, reminding me to receive the breath of God upon my life and then to ... breathe. Awaking in the morning, I am conscious of my breath and the gift of a new day and I breathe. Throughout the day if I'm anxious or upset I try to remind myself to breathe, slowly, steadily, breathing in the love of God and of life itself. Then I breathe out God's breath, God's love into the world. At night, if I have trouble sleeping, I slow down my inhale and exhale and pray, "Breathe on me, breath of God."

A few weeks ago I gave you the invitation to join me in something for Lent. I said: Stop a few times each day and notice what is around you and say, "Thank you, God, for the blessing of ... " Then write down those blessings at the end of each day. How are you doing with this? While some days I've forgotten to write things down, I've found that I've paused often during the day and given thanks for things such as the taste of cashews, seeing my siblings on Zoom, watching our leaders work together in Zoom meetings, technology working well during drive-in worship, seeing people standing by their cars at drive-in worship to join in "Shalom" and the taste of my hot green tea in the

morning. Those are just some examples! How about you?

I've also given thanks for the chance to stop to notice my breath. I expect that over these next few months, during this time of transition to my June 30 retirement, I'll stop often to breathe in the love of God and intentionally breathe that out into the world.

Some things to remember:

- .Drive-in worship at 9 a.m. on Sundays March 7, 14, 21.
  - .Coffee with the Pastors at 11 a.m. Sundays, March 14 & 21, on Zoom.
  - .Lent at Lunch at noon every Monday, Wednesday, Friday on Facebook and Instagram during Lent.
  - .Palm Sunday Cantata, "What Kind of King" - 9:45 a.m., March 28
  - ."Journey to the Cross" drive-through event – Noon to 2 p.m. Palm Sunday, March 28.
- And much more ...

So, breathe, and give thanks. Through your breath send God's love into the world.

*Blessings,*  
*Sharon*