

# Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

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May 5, 2021



## 'Sharon' the Love the First Weekend of June

Pastor Sharon began her appointment to St. Mark's UMC in July 2010. Eleven full and enriching years later, she has decided the time is right to retire, as of July 1. One truly understands the phrase "she will be sorely missed" when we think of her leaving St. Mark's. We also rejoice,

that after so many extraordinary years of service, she and Art can take more time to enjoy nature, cultivate new interests, and travel to northern Arizona more frequently. At the top of their list will be spending more time with their family: daughter, Julie, and her husband, Christian, and their son, Isaiah; and son, David, and his wife, Michelle, and their sons, Helios and Harrison.



During the first weekend of June, our entire church family is invited to "Sharon" the Love: Celebrating Pastor Sharon's Retirement. It will begin on Friday evening, June 4, with a celebration parade at St. Mark's. The parade will start at 7 p.m. sharp. Parking will be very tight, so please carpool as you feel comfortable. We ask you to bring your own lawn chair and plenty of water to stay hydrated, and use wet neckerchiefs to \*try\* to stay cool. Also please wear a mask. We want everyone to be safe and to be ready for a fun-filled farewell event. We plan for the festivities to be finished before nightfall. Feel free to make a colorful sign, bring a balloon, or wear a fun hat to this celebration. You may also bring a card or letter of gratitude as well as a love gift for Pastor Sharon and Art if you like. We will have a way to safely collect them. Watch for more details, including parking plans, as the date gets closer.

Does your St. Mark's small group/ministry want to Zoom chat with Pastor Sharon before she retires? If your group would like to schedule a Zoom conversation with Pastor Sharon, please contact Shelley Gault at [shelley@umcstmarks.org](mailto:shelley@umcstmarks.org) and she will arrange the date, time and Zoom connection. Enjoy!

"Sharon" the Love continues at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 6, when everyone (far and near) can watch the premiere showing of our celebration video, thanking Sharon for her wonderful ministry. It can be accessed via the St. Mark's website, Face-

book page and YouTube channel (just like Sunday morning worship). It will be filled with music, video clips, photos, special memories and fun for all (kids and adults) to see! Sit back with your favorite snack and enjoy the show.

We are grateful for Sharon's incredible leadership through all these years, and during this COVID-19 pandemic she has been keenly insightful in anticipating needs and providing direction and guidance. She and her team have developed new and evolving worship concepts. St. Mark's leaders, ministries and committees understand how important and appreciated their work is under Sharon's guidance. Most importantly Pastor Sharon continually reminds each of us that we are beloved children of God and that we are cared for. Every week, a member of the "puppet house" has taught us, children and adults alike, a very simple but important life lesson and always that we are loved. Our congregation is indeed blessed!

### Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Sally Mettler, Don Booth, Tom Ellis, Sandi Heilman, Sherri Lennarson, Lynn Nystrom, Helen Schindler, Paul Stegall, Rick Wendtland, Bill Wickham

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## May Worship at St. Mark's

During the month of May we have many opportunities for Sunday worship, including in-person worship.

- **8 a.m.** in-person worship on our beautiful west patio. No registration required. Wear a mask. Bring a chair, if you can. Enjoy a 40-minute service with live music, preaching and prayers.
- **10 a.m.** in-person worship in the Sanctuary. Registration required. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. on Mondays for the following Sundays, with a link sent by email on Mondays. You may also call the office to register, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Mondays. Wear a mask. The ushers will help you be seated in a socially distanced way. Service is about 45 minutes long.
- **9:45 a.m.** recorded worship services, as usual, on [umcstmarks.org/live-worship](http://umcstmarks.org/live-worship); YouTube UMC St. Mark's Oro Valley; or access the YouTube link at Facebook St. Mark's UMC Tucson.

## Margaret Synhorst Announces Resignation

Our Christian Formation Coordinator for Families, Children and Adults, Margaret Synhorst, has announced that her last day at St. Mark's will be May 31. We are sad to see Margaret leave



St. Mark's because she has made a remarkable impact on our Christian formation programs. Nevertheless, we are happy for Margaret and her husband, John, because they are moving to the Houston area to be closer to family and their new sweet grandbaby. You may have seen a picture or two!

Margaret began her role at St. Mark's in May 2017. Her responsibilities were to oversee children's ministries and adult spiritual growth and be staff liaison to numerous committees. She has influenced many children's programs including our Sunday school curriculum, Vacation Bible School and special events.

She has led multiple adult education classes, providing excellent conversation and spiritual enrichment. If you have taken a class from Margaret, you know she is an engaged and effective

## Staff Changes Coming in June

We are very grateful to Margaret Synhorst for her years of service as our Christian Formation Coordinator for Families, Children and Adults. Margaret's departure has led to a realignment of staff responsibilities. Here are the basics of that realignment. Read carefully!

Rachel Mosher will become our full-time Youth and Common Grounds Coordinator. She has been serving part-time in this capacity but will receive most of Pastor Kim Ogle's current youth responsibilities.

Pastor Kim Ogle will take on responsibilities for being the staff connection to Adult Spiritual Growth as well as the task forces that have come out of that, including the Racial Equity Task Force and the Learn, Love, Grow Together task force. Pastor Kim will also serve as the staff connection to the Missions Committee. While she will remain the Christian Formation Team leader, Pastor Kim will relinquish most youth responsibilities to Rachel Mosher. Kim will also continue to spearhead outreach for our second site, much of which has turned into an online presence during these pandemic times. Kim's new title will be Christian Formation and Outreach Pastor.

Rev. Stuart Salvatierra will serve as the staff connection to our Church and Society Committee. He will continue with his other pastoral responsibilities, as well as oversee our congregational care and serve as staff connection to Technology Team and the Finance Committee.

facilitator. She co-founded Faith on Stage with Pastor Evy McDonald, producing wonderful theatrical performances for our church. She is tireless when it comes to working with her assigned committees, including Adult Spiritual Growth; Missions; Children's Ministry; Learn, Love, Grow Together; the Racial Equity Task Force; and recently Church and Society.

Margaret noted in her letter of resignation, "It is difficult to leave my dream job, but even harder to leave all the people whom I have come to love so much and served alongside for years, both as a member of the staff and of the congregation. I am excited to see what the next chapter is for St. Mark's and how this congregation will continue to thrive as it lives its mission."

Margaret, we will be excited to learn what your next chapter is! Our congregation wishes you and your family the very best. We pray that you find your new "dream church and position" so you can bless another church with your inspiration, creativity, energy and love of sharing God's truth.

Cards and letters may be sent to Margaret's current address: (see church directory).

*Blessings and Gratitude,  
Staff-Parish Relations Committee*

Our drama ministry, Faith on Stage, will be staffed by a volunteer.

Because of these changes, we will have a position open for a Coordinator of Children and Family Ministries. This position is about 15 hours per week and the person in it will lead our Christian education program and special events (such as Vacation Bible School) for children and families. See info in this Messenger on how to apply for this position.



Our staff has done excellent work during these challenging times. When you see one of our staff members, be sure to give them encouragement and your support, and pray daily for them.

*Rev. Sharon Ragland, Lead Pastor*

The new 2021 Flower Calendar sign-up cards have been added to the Volunteer Board in the foyer to the Sanctuary. Check them out to sign up to give flowers in honor or memory of someone. If circumstances change and flowers aren't needed, everyone who signs up will be contacted to postpone their donation. Thank you for sponsoring!

# 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.

## Summer Book Discussions

6:30 to 8 p.m. Mondays

See the online registration form for a full listing of what's coming up.

**May 17 – Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor (2014)** – Join Margaret Synhorst in her last ASG offering before leaving St. Mark's for Texas!

The author has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. Doesn't God work in the nighttime as well? In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all God has to teach us "in the dark" – to move away from our "solar spirituality" and ease our way into appreciating "lunar spirituality" (since, like the moon, our experience of the light waxes and wanes).

Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways and we feel God's presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most. Taylor provides a way to find spirituality in those times when we don't have all the answers, giving us strength and hope to face all of life's challenging moments. Available online from \$15; \$8 on Kindle.

**June 14 – The Space Between Us by Thrity Umrigar (2006)** – led by Rev. Sharon Ragland

Umrigar vividly captures the social struggles of modern India in a novel of honor, tradition, class, gender and family. It is a portrayal of two women discovering an emotional rapport as they struggle against the confines of a rigid caste system.

## Ongoing Classes

**Wednesday Study Group** - 10 a.m. Finishing *Christianity and World Religions* by Adam Hamilton, then taking a summer break.

**Family Life/Sharing** - Adult Sunday School – 1 p.m. Sundays  
New study beginning May 23: *Justice or Just Us: The Biblical Call to Confront Racism*, Rob Fuquay and Nicole & Jevon Caldwell-Gross. A four-week video curriculum reminding us that confronting racism is not just a social or political matter, but a theological one. No text required.

## Volunteer at St. Mark's

### Ushers Needed!

As St. Mark's is returning to in-person worship, we need your welcoming, friendly selves. As you are well aware, things have changed over the past year. Not surprisingly, ushering (or "ushing" as some of us lovingly call it) will have a few different duties, a bit of a new look, as well. What will NOT be different will be the **welcoming, friendly** part, aka, **showing HOSPITALITY**. St. Mark's is well-known for our hospitality. You want to be in church anyway, so step it up a bit! Hear the same great message, music, scriptures, prayers and announcements. Greet and worship with the same great people AND offer a special service. The training is free! Call Pat Small (see church directory).

### Are You a 'Techie'?

The Technology Committee is responsible for all aspects of using technology to help St. Mark's achieve one of our stated priorities, to "bring Christ to the world by taking church out into the world." This committee works on and maintains a number of technology issues such as:

1. Online streaming of worship services;
2. Maintaining the computer network in the church office and Sanctuary;
3. Maintaining and updating the campus WiFi access;
4. Maintaining and updating a variety of software the office staff use;
5. Maintaining and upgrading our audio and video capabilities in the Sanctuary, outdoors (for example, for west patio events and Easter sunrise service), and in the classrooms for meetings and classes.

There are a number of other technologies we help maintain that are not always obvious.

Now that we have introduced ourselves, we are extending an invitation to join our committee. We currently have about five members plus Pastor Stuart, and we can really use more help and more ideas. Technology is always advancing, and sometimes it is a challenge to keep on top of it and discern the best ways to use it for helping St. Mark's reach out. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Don Booth at [techsupport@umcstmarks.org](mailto:techsupport@umcstmarks.org) or give him a call (see church directory).

### Missions Committee Openings

Do you share a passion for helping others in need? Is God calling you to get more involved? The Missions Committee has openings. As a committee member, you would participate in monthly meetings, work with our mission partners as a liaison to St. Mark's, and help to lead our church into the future through our work on the committee and as a steward of the funds entrusted to us by our congregation. One opening is for a liaison to the Fuente De Vida church in Agua Prieta, Mexico. St. Mark's has actively worked with this church for many years. If you have an interest in this opening or serving on the committee in another capacity, please contact John Yost (see church directory).

# Counselor-in-Residence Program Update

St. Mark's and the northwest community have been privileged to have Counselor-in-Residence Lane Harmon, MC, LPC, available to provide skilled psychotherapeutic support to St. Mark's members and constituents for 25 years. We are grateful for the professional service and care she has provided St. Mark's; however, as of June 30 Lane will step away from the Counselor-in-Residence Program. She will continue her private practice and office at another location.

While Lane will be missed, please be assured we are in good hands and fortunate to have Susan Proebsting, Ph.D., as a new addition the Counselor-in-Residence program. She will office in the Wesley House as soon as it is safe. Due to the pandemic, Susan is doing teletherapy and is available for referrals. Susan can be contacted at 520-221-7766 or [susan@maitriwellness.com](mailto:susan@maitriwellness.com).

*Kathy Parrish, Counselor-in-Residence Chair*

## Words from Counselor-in-Residence Lane Harmon, MC, LPC

"When you do things from the soul, you feel the river moving in you, a joy." Rumi

It is with both sadness and joy that I announce my plans to leave as Counselor-in-Residence on June 30. I have been honored to be part of your vibrant and caring community for more than 25 years. I first became acquainted with St. Mark's through facilitating a grief support group while I was working for a local hospice. That first group from so long ago has continued without interruption (a tribute to the commitment of your community to serve the needs of people experiencing loss and recognizing their important work of healing). Through these years I have felt the profound privilege of companioning many of you through this valued journey.

A year after facilitating the first grief support group, the Wesley House became available for me to office a full-time private practice, serving both St. Mark's and the Tucson community. Through the years, I have witnessed immense courage facing fragile vulnerabilities and the enormous gift of healing. There is a rhythm and melody created in the soul when we work together to heal. I am forever grateful.



I am not retiring but will office at another location and can still be reached at both the 520-297-6228 and 520-271-5804 numbers. I am also very pleased that Susan Proebsting, Ph.D., will facilitate the grief support group after my departure on June 30. She has generously offered to begin attending the group for two months prior to my departure, to support a caring and careful transition. I will continue to see my clients from St. Mark's after my departure. Please know the Counselor-in-Residence program continues to be here to meet your needs through this time.

So, as I shared, I feel sadness and joy. I feel grief in this goodbye because you have meant so much to me and I feel joy in celebrating what we created together (a program that listened and honored emotional healing and growth). Heartfelt thanks to the many people who have supported me in my work to support you – the wonderful people who serve the Counselor-in-Residence committee, the pastors, the church staff and all of you.

*With Much Appreciation-  
Lane*

## Attention Grads!

If you or someone you love is graduating, or have graduated, from high school, college or technical school this year, we want to celebrate that accomplishment! (That includes anyone who has graduated since last May.) We will show a video in recorded worship to recognize our graduates. The video will include pictures of each individual grad, along with pertinent information.

- **For high school graduates**, the information should include first and last name, as well as school from which you are graduating.

- **College graduates**, please include first and last name, school, major and degree received.
- **Technical school graduates**, please include first and last name, school and certification/license received.



Please send photos and information to Pastor Kim Ogle, [kim@umcstmarks.org](mailto:kim@umcstmarks.org), by May 12.

## Message From the Board of Trustees

As the campus continues to reopen and more people and groups are again using the campus, several projects either have been completed or are in progress.

**Main office carpeting** – The carpeting in the administrative office has been replaced along with the entire choir room area. Other areas will be addressed as funds permit.

**Portable Zoom station** – A mobile Zoom station has been equipped so groups can meet when members are both present on campus and in remote locations. The equipment includes the following: laptop computer (generously donated by a congregant), large-screen TV, wide angle camera, wireless keyboard and mouse and a mobile stand.

**Roofing project** – The roofs on the Wesley House and Sanctuary will be recoated within the next 4-6 weeks. Additionally, there will be some spot work done on the Fellowship Hall roof. The plan is to get this work scheduled before the monsoon season.

The Trustees give special thanks to both Tony Lovaglio and Bill Welch for their willingness to fill in as we recruited for a new Maintenance Coordinator. They have collectively done a great job in keeping our campus safe and well-maintained. If you see either of these two gentlemen, please say thanks!

*John T. Cecilia, Board of Trustees Chair*

## Help Wanted: Coordinator of Children and Family Ministries

St. Mark's has created a new position, Coordinator of Children and Family Ministries. The person filling this 15-hour-per-week position will make valuable contributions to the Christian Formation Team by working with several committees and leaders in carrying out ministries for children and families. The job includes recruiting, training and supporting volunteers for leadership in children's ministries in addition to the selection of curriculum materials. It also requires skills to establish goals, objectives and action plans; budget management; delegation; and program evaluation. The ability to foster teamwork between staff members and volunteers is very important. This person will need to generate and execute plans for programs and ministries for the children of the church and young families.

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) by May 19. If you have questions, contact Kim Ogle in the church office, 520-297-2062.

## Introducing New Maintenance Coordinator Johnny Slovak

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is happy to announce the hiring of our new maintenance coordinator, Johnny Slovak. Johnny fills the position left vacant when



Bart Dale moved back to Minnesota in March. Johnny brings a wealth of experience maintaining church and church school facilities. He worked in Dallas and Oklahoma prior to moving to Tucson.

Johnny is married to Rev. Anita Slovak. They have two grown sons, Andrew and Matthew, both of Dallas, and a 5-year-old Golden Retriever named Sanna. In his spare time, Johnny enjoys woodworking, turning wood on his lathes. Johnny says, "I just love the smell of saw dust."

Johnny says, "I just love the smell of saw dust."

April 26 was Johnny's first day at St. Mark's. He is busy learning the lay of the land and getting his feet wet, "literally." As things begin to return to normal, and we return to campus, give Johnny our St. Mark's friendly welcome. We are truly blessed to have him as part of our team.

We give special thanks to Tony Lovaglio and Bill Walsh (coming out of retirement!) for stepping up and filling the gap between Bart and Johnny and helping to get Johnny oriented. We appreciate you.

## Calling all LGBTQ Folk and Allies

Many of us have wondered during the last year what we could do to make things better in this world. If you are interested in gender and sexuality issues, here's an opportunity to participate in making LGBTQ inclusion part of the St. Mark's DNA. In early 2020, we had the Input Project and then in March 2020 our church planned to host two all-day workshops called "Learn, Love, Grow Together" in preparation for General Conference 2020, which was postponed due to the pandemic. Recently the LLGT planning group has been discussing how we would want to gather and begin conversations in our congregation on LGBTQ justice and inclusion issues. If you would you like to join the team doing this important work, please contact Margaret Synhorst at [margaret@umcstmarks.org](mailto:margaret@umcstmarks.org). Our next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. May 10 via Zoom. We'd love to have you join us!

## Missions Update from the Chair

St. Mark's has committed for many years to give 10% of our annual budget to Missions. The Missions Committee takes its responsibility to be good stewards of those funds seriously. During this second quarter, disbursements have been made to the following organizations:

### \$2,500 to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona

– The Food Bank responds to the root causes of hunger in Southern Arizona and seeks to restore dignity, health, hope and opportunity to people living in poverty. It distributed 71 million lb. of food last year to nearly 200,000 people. In recent months, it has been working on filling another gap by opening 23 food pantries in schools throughout Tucson, and the Food Bank is expanding the program into Cochise County with pantries in eight more schools.

### \$2,500 to Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

– St. Mark's has been a key mission partner with TIHAN for almost 30 years. TIHAN supports people living with HIV/AIDS in our community by bringing together religious, secular, corporate and nonprofit organizations. It is serving more people than ever before during these challenging times.

### \$2,500 to The Inn

– St. Mark's supports The Inn as part of a collaborative effort with other United Methodist churches in the Desert Southwest Conference. The Inn helps to host asylum-seeking families from Central and South America. The families receive basic necessities such as food, clothes and toiletries. They also get a comfortable place to rest while volunteers help to arrange travel to other family members across the country.

Thank you for helping to take St. Mark's into the world through your support of our missions!

*John Yost, Missions Committee Chair*

## Outside Volunteer Opportunities

Here is our first installment posting volunteer opportunities for your consideration on a regular basis in each Messenger.

The **Red Cross** is looking for a blood drive ambassador in our area. If you have a few hours to give each month, the folks there could use your help. Duties include:

- Assist with reception at blood drives
- Greet blood donors
- Record temperatures
- Offer refreshments

## Help for TIHAN, ICS in one place!

St. Mark's has been a key mission partner with the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network for almost 30 years. Many of TIHAN's clients travel on public transportation or walk to their destinations.

We are collecting small bottles of hand sanitizer and sunscreen to help keep them safe. You can donate to this effort by dropping off your donations during the same hours and location as our ICS food collection (see below).



Please put the hand sanitizer and sunscreen in separate bags from the food.

About that food collection: The donations keep on rolling in! We have already collected more than 9,000 pounds of food so far this year for the food bank at Interfaith Community Services. That is amazing work by our caring, generous congregation. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! ICS is very grateful as are the food recipients as they receive more food than they would have if it were not for our efforts. St. Mark's was recently recognized by ICS in its quarterly newsletter and faith community bulletin. Last week, we made a presentation to the ICS Board of Directors about our ongoing food collection efforts and the dozens of wonderful people who are helping to make it a reality in helping those in need in our community. Pastor Sharon participated in the board meeting and was recognized for her many years of tremendous support of ICS.

Our collection hours remain 10 – 11 a.m. every Tuesday and Saturday in the north parking lot of our church. A safe collection process is in place. All donations big or small are greatly appreciated.

**Gap Ministries** is a faith-based ministry located on Flowing Wells that has been serving our community for more than 25 years. Its mission is to stand in the gap for those in need, bringing help to children, healing to families and hope to our community through a variety of programs. It is looking for individuals and groups to volunteer an hour or two a week in these areas: warehouse, kitchen, Treasures & More community store and general campus maintenance.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact John Yost (see church directory).

# Youth Ministry

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



## Adventures of the Youth Directors



### May Birthdays

May 3 — **Kiera Ritchey**

May 14— **David Titzel**

May 20— **Don Booth**

(High School Sunday School Teacher)



Our pancake breakfast at IHOP was awesome! Thanks for coming and for spreading the word! We raised more than \$1,000. This money will go toward our youth missions.

### St. Mark's Celebrates YOU(th)!

We can all agree that the past year has been ... unusual, to say the least. The way you have all handled this crazy year has been absolutely remarkable. Your church family is so proud of you. We are so proud, we want to celebrate you and your hard work this year! Come to church between 5:30 and 7 p.m. May 21. You will get a sweet treat and a chance to be celebrated! This is for all students Pre-K – 12, so bring the whole family!



Youth news continued on page 8

# Youth Ministry

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



## Middle School Mission

We missed it last year, but this year, guess what is back!? The South District Middle School Mission! As with everything else, this will look very different from the past years, but it's guaranteed to be awesome! We will have a one-day event, and you do NOT want to miss it! Put 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. June 5 on your calendar. More information will be out very soon. Contact Rachel if you have any questions!

## High School Mission

Don't worry, high school students, we didn't forget you! The South District will also host a fun mission experience for you, July 9–10. Keep your eyes peeled for the details! You won't want to miss this chance to serve with other high school students from around the district!



This year's Confirmation class rocked the first-ever fully virtual Confirmation class. They showed up on Zoom every week and worked so hard! Kim and Rachel are super proud of you all, and can't wait until May 9, Confirmation Sunday! Great job, guys!

## Well well, we meet again!

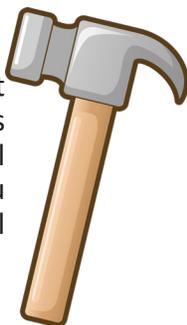
As the craziest school year we have ever experienced comes to a close, it has become clear how much we need each other, and how important our community is! It has

been so fun to stay connected through texts, emails, social media, and Rachel's weird videos. Plus the amazing stickers. But it's so exciting to know that we are slowly getting back to "normal," or at least somewhat approaching normal! As we start to meet from 4–5 p.m.

on Sundays, we get to play games and connect, and it's great! Want more info? Contact Rachel.

## If I Had a Hammer ...

On May 23, we will have a special project at youth group. Along with your masks and water, please bring a hammer! We will all create a masterpiece together! (If you don't have a hammer, that's fine – Rachel will have a few extra!)



Hi PreTeens,

This is a busy time of year. The school year is coming to an end, and that means school projects are due, it's spring concert and program season and of course finals and standardized testing are happening. As this school year wraps up, church is just starting to open up again. In-person outdoor worship on the patio has been going on for a month now, and for the first time in more than a year, the Sanctuary is open for one socially distanced service on Sundays (check with the church office for details). Our Preteen group is meeting outside for one hour on Sunday afternoons. For more information regarding outdoor Preteen (fourth and fifth grade) activities and to join us for Fun Filled Fellowship send an email to Julie Eblen (see church directory). See you on the patio!

Blessings - Julie

## ATTENTION EVERYONE (not only youth)!

Please remember to **register your attendance** online! As part of our congregational care, it's very important for us to know who is with us each week, whether you're a member, occasional attender or a visitor, so please take just a moment to sign in.

The way we are registering your attendance is the way of the future, thanks to COVID.



On campus and on the overhead screens you'll find funny-looking, square QR codes. All you have to do is open your smartphone's camera app and point your camera at the QR code. It will take you straight to the attendance sign-in page on our website. If you don't

have a smartphone, the ushers will assist you on the few iPads we have. **You can practice with the example above!**

If you are worshipping online and don't find the QR code, you can go to our website, then "Resources," then "Attendance." Thank you for taking the time to do this. We appreciate you worshipping with us.

Sherry Walker  
Administrative Assistant for Membership and Finance

# Finances and Worship

Thank you for your generous support this first quarter of the year. Financial results through the end of March are reflected below:

	Actual	Budget	Plus/Minus
Income	\$312,144	\$312,606	(\$ 462)
Expense	225,485	238,742	(13,257)
Net Income	\$ 86,659	\$ 73,864	\$12,795

The \$86,659 of income exceeding expense is a blessing and will be used through the summer months. Committees continue to do an excellent job of controlling expenses and your continued generous contributions are greatly appreciated. Statements through the first quarter were sent out in April. Please look them over, and if you have any questions, contact Sherry Walker, [sherry@umcstmarks.org](mailto:sherry@umcstmarks.org).

And the St. Mark's finances are not the only area with good results; in-person worship on the west patio has really taken off! Each of the Sunday services in April on the west patio had about 100 worshippers. No reservations are needed. West patio services are now at 8 a.m., and worship in the Sanctuary begins at 10 a.m. Reservations are required for Sanctuary worship. Whichever service you choose, please come back. We miss you.

*Bill Zermuehlen, Finance Chair  
Ruth Kester, Administration and Finance Coordinator*

## There's Still Time to Make Tax Credit Donations for the ECC

The Arizona Department of Revenue advises taxpayers they now have until May 17 to contribute to certified qualifying charitable organizations, qualifying foster care charitable organizations, school tuition organizations and public schools to claim the tax credits on their 2020 individual income tax return. Our very own Early Childhood Center is one of these organizations. Individuals or couples can contribute to help our kindergartners with tuition costs. To donate, please go to <https://ibescholarships.org>.



## Easter Offering a Huge Success

Your generous contributions toward the 2021 Easter offering raised \$12,520. Fifty percent of this amount is designated for Interfaith Community Services, which assists thousands of people in our community through a variety of programs including operating two food banks. The other half is designated for Our Family Services, a local organization whose core mission is to eliminate homelessness for families and youth. Thank you for your support!



Missions Chair John Yost presents checks to Interfaith Community Services (above) and Our Family Services (at right). Each charity received more than \$6,200 from our special Easter offering.

## St. Mark's Youth Thank You for Successful IHOP Fundraiser

The youth of St. Mark's extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this year's pancake breakfast at IHOP. We truly missed seeing you all on the patio, but we are so grateful for the generous congregation's participation. We raised more than \$1,000 for youth missions! Thank you!!



## Welcoming Pastor Lynn in July

Two Words: Name Tags!

As we plan to celebrate Pastor Sharon's retirement, we anxiously await the arrival of our new pastor, Rev. Lynn Bartlow, on July 1. Pastor Lynn's husband, Rev. Ron Bartlow, is appointed to serve at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on Tucson's east side. We all know the strain and excitement of moving to a new city, new neighborhood and new job. We continue to pray for Pastor Lynn, Ron and their children, Kate and Will. Their arrival in

Tucson will be a whirlwind. We promise many opportunities to meet and get to know Pastor Lynn and her family. As we move back to the Sanctuary and campus, remember to **wear your name tags**. We only have to know Pastor Lynn. She'll have the harder task learning and remembering all of us! The future for St. Mark's is bright. Pastor Lynn possesses the gifts and talents to lead us. We have the gifts, talents and faith to ensure her success.

## Easter is a Season

St. Mark's provided multiple opportunities during Holy Week to experience and commemorate the suffering and death of Jesus. Then, on Easter Sunday, we were able to sing out: "Rejoice!" "Christ is Risen!" "Christ is Risen Indeed!"

On behalf of the congregation, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee shares our gratitude to the St. Mark's pastors, staff, musicians, teachers, youth, church leaders and volunteers for making these services and events possible. A look back on the many offerings: Lent at Lunch, Palm Sunday "Drive-through Journey to the Cross," Palm Sunday Musical Cantata, Soul Station, Maundy Thursday re-enactment of Jesus' Last Day with music and readings, Good Friday, "The Way of the Cross" led by our confirmation class, Saturday Harps in the Gardens, IHOP Pancakes to support our Youth Group, Holy Week and Easter altars, Easter Flowers and photo op, and our Easter worship celebrations – sunrise service and 9:45 a.m. Holy Communion and worship message, "Love is ... Accepting New Life!"

This amazing and precious gift of LOVE continues because Easter is a season. Blessings to all!

With gratitude,  
Sally Mettler, Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair

## Mark Your Calendar: May 21

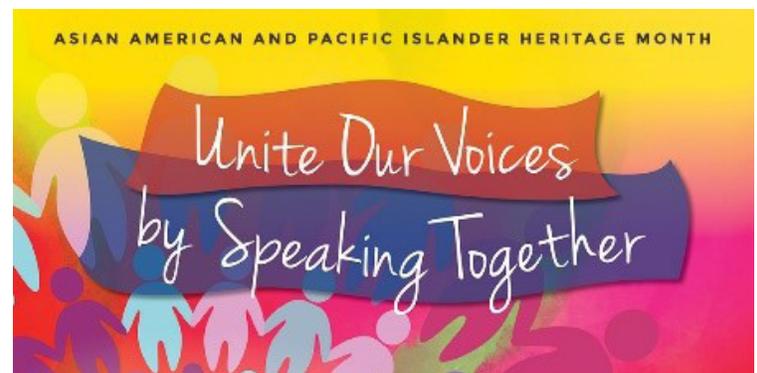
Time to Celebrate Our Students!

Shout out to all of our students! The last year has been so challenging for you all, trying to continue learning and working hard at school that was virtual, hybrid or in-person, and changing all the time. You had to learn to adapt and adapt to learn, and the whole church is so proud of you. That's why we want to honor you with our "Celebration of Students." Come anytime between 5:30 and 7 p.m. Friday, May 21, for ice cream, a gift and family celebration photos! We look forward to seeing all of our students, Pre-K through graduating seniors. Here's to a job well done!



## May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Dating back to 1978, AAPI recognition was first limited to the first 10 days of May to coincide with two specific historical milestones: a) the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843 and b) to honor the contributions of Chinese workers at the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869. Congress expanded the celebration to the entire month of May in 1992. As we flip our calendars to May, let's take a moment to reflect on the heritage of our AAPI brothers and sisters and recommit to ensuring that they, like all of those created in God's image, should be free from violence and hatred based on their appearance or heritage. In light of recent hate crimes against the Asian American community, the New Federation of Asian American United Methodists has drafted a statement against Asian American violence: <https://tinyurl.com/violencestatement>. The article provides some ways you can be a force for compassionate change as we continue our walk with the Risen Jesus here in Tucson. – Racial Equity Task Force



Pima Council on Aging is presenting a virtual six-week workshop for those living with chronic pain and their caregivers, 1–3 p.m. Tuesdays, May 11, 18 and 25, and June 1, 8 and 15 via Zoom. Topics for this interactive workshop include understanding acute and chronic pain, balancing activity and rest, managing your emotions, pain, fatigue and decreasing frustration. Class size is limited, registration required, \$35/person for materials. Call Jennie at 520-305-3410.

## 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  
Marge Frazer  
Keith and Mary Ann Glazier  
Mary Sanders

Ana Luisa Terrazas  
Carol Underwood  
Jackie Vickers

## CONDOLENCES

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

Mary Wald and her family and friends on the passing of her husband, Lance, on Friday, April 16. A memorial service with limited attendance was held Tuesday, May 4 at St. Mark's.

## 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 Cards are located on the church website under the MINISTRIES tab, then CONGREGATIONAL CARE.



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

**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)  
YouTube:  
UMC St. Mark's Oro Valley  
or access the YouTube link  
via Facebook  
St. Mark's UMC Tucson

### Dear Church Family...

Please accept my profound and heartfelt gratitude for all your cards, emails and other expressions of support and sympathy at the loss of my mother. I wish I could respond to every single one of them, but please know how much your words and actions have sustained and encouraged me at this very difficult time, and how I have felt surrounded by the kindness, love and prayers of this beloved community.

*Elizabeth Schauer*

I can never say thank you to all the people of St. Mark's who have called, sent cards, texted and emailed while I recovered from the double hematoma surgery. I am doing quite well now and have been given the OK by my doctor to GET BACK TO WORK. All your prayers and thoughts have helped immensely. I expect to be doing my usual responsibilities from now on. Thanks again to everyone at St. Mark's. You're the best!

*Sondra Franks*

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers during my time of illness. I'm still fighting some infection but getting stronger every day. Your prayers were felt and appreciated. *Georgia Watson*

Thank you for the prayers and cards and for providing information to the congregation who sent many cards and said prayers for me for my surgery on April 20. I am doing well and hope to be back to "normal" next week. It helps healing and the spirit to know there are people who care.

*Lorri Jordan*

On behalf of all of us at the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, I'd like to thank the members of St. Mark's United Methodist Church for your generous contribution of \$2,500. Keeping people safe and minimizing exposure to COVID-19 is of utmost importance, especially for our most vulnerable community members. We are grateful to transform your contribution into support programs that help people living with HIV to stay safe and live as well as possible.

*Scott Blades*

*Executive Director, Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN)*

## Reflections Appreciation

What have you learned this past year? What have you appreciated? I'd love it if you'd email me a sentence or two in response to those questions at [sharon@umcstmarks.org](mailto:sharon@umcstmarks.org).

There's something I've learned (or perhaps realized) as we've begun to do things in person once again. I knew somewhere within me how much I missed seeing people in person. But as we've held in person worship I realized HOW MUCH I appreciate seeing people face-to-face, seeing smiles, and hearing their words, even as we're still socially distanced. I get a smile on my face just thinking about seeing people in person.

I'm still cautious, though, and plan to wear my mask and keep a distance for some time yet. There are several reasons for that – the main one is that our daughter, Julie, continues with treatment for breast cancer and I don't want to take any risk of giving something to her. As more and more people are vaccinated and data shows COVID numbers going in the right direction, I'll feel more secure in being with groups of people. Like many of you, I feel more secure outside – that's one reason I love our outdoor patio worship.

Here's some info about our new sermon series that begins

on May 9. And remember, recorded worship continues at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday.

Mother's day blessings to all those who nurture and care for others.

*Blessings, Sharon*

New Sermon Series Begins:

"Jesus and Love in the Ten Commandments"

On May 9 at all worship services, we begin a new sermon series called "Jesus and Love in the Ten Commandments." The Ten Commandments were given to Jesus' ancestors long before him and informed his life and the lives of Jewish people in his day. How do these ancient commandments tell us about the love of Jesus and apply to our lives today?

**May 9** – "At the Center of It All"  
(First and Second commandments)

**May 16** – "The Power of Words"  
(Third and Ninth commandments)

**May 23** – Pentecost! Celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit! "The Joy of Sabbath" (Fourth Commandment)

**May 30** – "A Question of Honor" (Fifth Commandment)

The series will continue in June.