

# Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

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## WELCOME, PASTOR LYNN!

### ***A Word From Our New Pastor***

This is a season of transitions, a season of change for us all as we begin to emerge from the pandemic and ponder what we want our new normal life to look like. It's a season of transition in the wider church, as our bishop retires this fall and we anticipate General Conference. It's a season of change in the church, with new pastors arriving in congregations all over our conference, and even in the entire country.

Transitions are a part of life; change is a part of life. But this pastoral transition that we face together carries big emotions for me—at once I am scared, grateful, overwhelmed, excited, and don't forget so very hot in this heat wave! When I face big emotions, I know I can find answers in the Bible, and often the prophets speak to me.

Elijah was a great prophet. He would appear, give a pronouncement, and then disappear just as quickly. He was a prophet of doom who could be both courageous and cowardly. His prophetic career ends with a passing of his mantle to Elisha, his assistant (2 Kings 2). Before Elijah was taken up in a chariot of fire, Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Elijah promised it, and then was taken to heaven. Elisha put on the mantle left behind and went on to do the work of God as a prophet. A close reading of his story will show that indeed, everything he did was twice as big as Elijah. He indeed was twice as powerful a prophet as Elijah.

I am blessed to be receiving the metaphorical mantle from Pastor Sharon as she retires. She has been a mentor to me—she was the district superintendent who received my husband and me when we moved to Arizona. She was the first non-family member to greet our son after his birth in the hospital and one of the first to greet our daughter. She has served on the Board of Ordained Ministry with me, where I have learned from her spirit and her wisdom in all the matters that come before us.

I don't feel worthy to be receiving the mantle from her. Yet, I know that by the grace of God, I have been chosen by the bishop to pick up the mantle and lead you into a new future. By the grace of God, I have been chosen to continue the work that you began long before Sharon, and will continue long after I leave. By the grace of God, I will walk beside you as we face our own

obstacles in this time and place.

This transition is full of all the big emotions. But I know that God who walked with Elisha through his transitions will walk with us through this transition. We might even be able to look back and see how we were doubly blessed. Join me as we see where God leads us in this desert, following in the footsteps of all who have gone before us!

### ***Let's Make Her Feel At Home***

Rev. Lynn Bartlow, husband Ron, daughter Kate, and son Will moved to their new home in Tucson a few weeks ago. She and her family have been getting settled during the hottest days on record. We will welcome Lynn during our in-person services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on July 4. Her first sermon will be the following Sunday on July 11. Let's pack the pews for those services to welcome Pastor Lynn. Remember you need reservations for the 10 a.m. services. Watch your email Monday mornings for a link to register, or call the church office at 520-297-2062.



Pastor Lynn brings the experience, passion, gifts and talent to help lead us into the next chapter of ministry for the St. Mark's United Methodist Church community. Her appointment is a blessing, and we are excited to begin.

How do we welcome Pastor Lynn?

- WEAR YOUR NAME TAG! If you need a new one, get in touch with the church office, we'll make one for you.
- PRAY! Lift Pastor Lynn, her family, and the St. Mark's community up in your prayers.
- SPIRITUAL GIFTS and talents! Give Pastor Lynn the opportunity to use her spiritual gifts. Be ready to discover and use yours to support St. Mark's ministry.
- BE OPEN! Be open to what God wants us to do through Pastor Lynn's leadership.
- HOSPITALITY! Show Pastor Lynn that famous St. Mark's hospitality. There will be time for social gatherings to meet Pastor Lynn. Listen for your opportunity. Her mailbox is available in the office. Drop her a card and message of support.
- Most of all WEAR YOUR NAME TAG!

Welcome home, Pastor Lynn!

## "God be with you ..."

### Farewell and thank you from Pastor Sharon

In a little book titled "Thank You" that was recently given to me, one quote says, "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." – William Arthur Ward

So here goes – my gratitude to you is larger, deeper and wider than I can begin to express. I am grateful for all your cards, gifts, encouraging words and expressions of care as I move toward retirement but also for all you've given throughout my 11 years with you. You have changed me, helped my faith to grow, challenged me to grow in leadership, understanding and caring and brought me to the place where I am now. You have loved my family, for which my gratitude is boundless.

Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to Christ and our church over these years. To those of you who are and have been leaders, thank you for serving Christ and our church. To those who are and have served on our staff, thank you for walking and working alongside me. Thank you for accepting my leadership, which has allowed us to spread the gift of Christ's love into the world.

You have let me be part of the joys and sadness of your lives, for holy and tender moments of tears and celebrations. My appreciation for that runs deep.

For the celebrations and joys of these last weeks, I give great thanks. Those include (but I'm sure I'll leave some out) the "Sharon" the Love parade and retirement video premiere, generous gifts – bought, handmade, given, the commissioned musical piece for worship, farewell in worship, other musical pieces offered and so much more. You have given me generous gifts of funds, some of which will go to help grow the Sharon Ragland Endowed Scholarship at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Because of your gifts now and in the past to the scholarship, seminary students are already being given scholarships from the proceeds of the fund. Thank you!



Thank you for your encouraging and supportive words as I retire. You have supported me in the decision to retire, for which I'm very grateful. You know that I'm going to be spending time with my family, hiking and hanging out with Art, traveling and paying attention to what God wants me to do in the next season of my life.

Art and I both thank you. You have been so kind to offer words of thanks to him and to our family, for which I'm also grateful.

Now, I release you into the care and leadership of your new Lead Pastor, Rev. Lynn Bartlow, and your continuing pastors, Rev. Stuart Salvatierra and Pastor Kim Ogle. I ask that you release me as well. Turn to Rev. Lynn (and Stuart and Kim) for funerals and memorial services, weddings and baptisms, as well as for pastoral care. Turn to them for ideas you have for ministries and ways you want to serve. I place you lovingly into their care and God's unending care and abundant love.

As we come out of the pandemic, I encourage you to participate in your church by being in worship (or watching online), participating in classes and studies and by serving Christ in all the ways that St. Mark's is so good at doing. Continue to give generously so the mission and ministries of St. Mark's can thrive. Work together for justice so all God's people are covered with Christ's love.

St. Mark's is in good hands with great leaders, staff and pastors. We are financially sound, the building is well-cared-for, the church buildings are reopening for worship, classes and groups. I leave you knowing that while all is not perfect, all is very well.

It has been my great privilege and joy to serve among you. I leave with tears of sorrow and tears of hope and joy. I give you the gift of gratitude as I say from Philippians 1:3, "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you."

*Love and blessings,  
Sharon*

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### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: USHERS NEEDED!**

We need your welcoming, friendly selves to help with ushering, especially now with the addition of the 8 a.m. Sanctuary service. We love to show HOSPITALITY to our members and guests! 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! Contact Pat Small at ([see church directory](#)).

### **NEW OFFICE HOURS**

As we begin our next phase of reopening the campus, the church office is staffed for regular office hours. The new regular hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to noon on Fridays. For the safety of our staff, the office door will remain locked, so please ring the bell for service. Please continue to make an appointment if you would like to meet with a specific staff member, and masks are still required at this time. Thank you!

# Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

## Summer Book Discussions

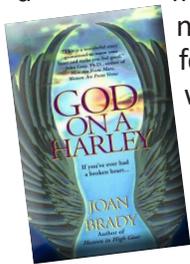
6:30-8 p.m. Mondays

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.

**July 26 – The Only Necessary Thing: Living A Prayerful Life by Henri Nouwen (1999)** – led by Rev. Dr. Roger Pierce Nouwen, author of more than 40 books, was considered one of the premier spiritual writers of modern times. From his vast collection of spiritual writing, short excerpts have been gathered and put into this fine book, very readable and helpful thoughts about many aspects of the spiritual life that enrich our understanding of the practice of coming close to God. You will find the book to be inspiring as it flows from the compassionate heart of this remarkable man. Available only in paperback via Amazon, Cokesbury and Barnes & Noble.



**Aug. 16 – God on a Harley: A Spiritual Fable by Joan Brady (1995)** – led by Susan Putt  
At 37, Christine Moore had a world-class case of burnout: a frustrating career, a few dead-end romances, no husband, no children and a less-than-perfect figure. Little did she know that her life was about to change completely. "God on a Harley" guides us on an inspiring odyssey of self-discovery and authentic, powerful love. As we follow this extraordinary fable, we join one woman's triumphant quest for healing and life-changing truths. Every woman who believes in her soul that hopes can be attained, real happiness can be found, and that each of us can be loved for herself will find in these pages the simple, profound secrets to an enlightened and enriched new life. Available online from \$14; \$12 on Kindle.



## Family Life/Sharing Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Sundays, hybrid in-person/Zoom

Led by Terry Majewski, Rick Farnsworth

This class began its latest study June 20 – "Acts: Catching up with the Spirit," by Matthew L. Skinner. In Acts, the author calls us to a daring life, risking more than the stormy seas and other challenges that faced the apostle Paul, to risk following the Holy Spirit into deep care of our neighbor at both the personal and societal levels. This

includes transformative hospitality, expansive inclusion, and in Skinner's words, "generous unity." The class is based on a video segment, the participant guide and class discussion. If you do not already have this book and you would like to join the study, please order one through Amazon, Cokesbury or a similar site. It is also available as an eBook.

The hybrid class is in Fellowship Hall, although the number of attendees is limited. It is available to anyone via Zoom. If anyone would like the Zoom link or to inquire about attending in person, contact one of the co-leaders (see directory for email).

## Seekers Adult Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Sundays via Zoom

Led by Brenda Hunter, Kelly Deyoe

On June 6 the class began discussion of 1 Corinthians. No text necessary – just bring your Bible. A study Bible of any kind is highly recommended but not required. (See church directory for leaders' email.)

## Arizona Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

The Academy for Spiritual Formation is a program developed for the single purpose of helping people grow in their relationship with God. The daily schedule is balanced between the academic (lectures and discussion) and the formative (silence and worship), engaging both "head" and "heart." Biblically based (Acts 2:42) four actions constitute the basic practices of the Academy: teaching, fellowship, worship and prayer.



Participants are both clergy and lay. We welcome people of other faith traditions and seek to provide a setting in which the focus is not on one's denomination, but on one's relationship with God. It's an opportunity to go deeper in your Christian journey. You do not need to be an expert in the faith.

Faculty presenters are carefully selected for their knowledge, teaching ability and personal faith and are there to stimulate the community with new insights and perspectives. Faculty presenters this year:

Rev. Vance P. Ross, lead pastor at Central UMC in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a contributor to the recent publication, "I'm Black, I'm Christian, I'm Methodist."

Rev. Hwa-Young Chong, lead pastor of the Community UMC of Naperville, IL. She is committed to inter-religious dialogue, cross-racial and cross-cultural ministry, and peace and justice engagements.

Worship provides the framework for a typical day and is woven throughout the day to refresh us from our intellectual endeavors. Every evening you will meet in a

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**ASG continued from page 3**

small Listening Circle to reflect on the day and to share spiritual journeys in a safe space for listening to one another and to God.

Cost of the academy is \$875/person; couples in a shared room, \$775/person. After Aug. 15 the price increases by \$100/person. Every effort is made to make it possible for people to attend, regardless of their ability to pay. Various scholarship monies are available.

Contact Judy Boroto (see church directory) with questions about the academy or for information regarding scholarships. For more information or to register online, go to <https://dscumc.org/arizona-five-day-academy>.

## ASG Fall Lineup Preview

More specific dates will be available in August.

### Mid-late August:

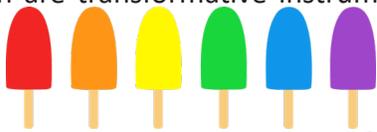
#### Learn, Love, Grow Together Five-Day Challenge

Join us via Zoom or email for the theological background concerning LGBTQI+. A daily item (video, article, or podcast) will give you a better understanding for inclusion of all people in our churches and society. A group discussion of the material will take place at the end of the challenge.

### September:

#### The 21-Day Wesley Challenge: To a More Authentic Faith

This study reminds us that intentional thought and deliberate action are transformative instruments of grace.



## Finance Committee Update

Thank you for your continued generous support. The wonderful financial results through May are reflected below:

	Actual	Budget	Plus/Minus
Income	\$528,997	\$498,196	\$ 30,801
Expense	400,408	417,711	(17,303)
Net Income	\$128,589	\$ 80,485	\$ 48,104

We are in a very good financial position as we enter the summer months, thanks to generous giving and controlling expenses. The Finance Committee will continue to look closely at the budget at the end of each quarter.

Please keep in mind that it is very important for the ministries and missions of the church that contributions continue during the summer months. You can mail your contributions to 1431 W. Magee Road, Tucson, AZ 85704. If you bank online, you can instruct your financial institution to send a check to the address above. Another option is to set up online donations through the St. Mark's website. Go to <https://umcstmarks.org> and click on the GIVING tab or scan the QR code in the Sunday bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Kester at [ruthk@umcstmarks.org](mailto:ruthk@umcstmarks.org).

Please come back to church if you are able; we miss you.

Bill Zermuehlen  
Ruth Kester

Finance Chair  
Administration & Finance Coordinator

The 21 questions will engage us in our physical, spiritual and emotional lives as well as our relationship with God and others. Each question includes Scripture, prayer and thoughts for reflection. At the end of each week, a group discussion will take place concerning the daily reading and activities.

### September/October:

#### "Justice or Just Us?" 5-6 weeks

Rob Fuquay, Nicole Caldwell-Gross, Jevon Caldwell-Gross  
Confronting racism is not just a social or political matter, but a theological one. It is the Bible that calls us to pursue justice, and the Bible that calls us to oppose racism. "Justice or Just Us" is a four-week video curriculum based on a sermon series and anti-racism commitment by the authors.

### October/November:

#### I'm Black, I'm Christian, I'm Methodist 3-4 weeks

Ten personal narratives reveal the shared and distinct struggles of being Black in the Church, facing historic and modern racism. Ten Black women and men explore life through the lens of compelling personal religious narratives. They are people and leaders whose lives are tangible demonstrations of the power of a divine purpose and evidence of what grace really means in the face of hardship, disappointment and determination.

Other short-term studies will be available. Watch for announcements about them.



# Worldwide Christian Support Task Force Update

## Crisis in Myanmar (Burma) Worsens

In February, the military coup in Myanmar displaced the democratically elected government. Since then, the condition of the estimated 4.4 million Christians has deteriorated. Churches in Kayah State, for example, have stopped meeting for fellowship at night because of military-imposed curfew restrictions. In other parts of the country, many people have not been able to participate in online worship. Many churches in the major metropolitan cities of Yangon and Mandalay have temporarily stopped all physical and online meetings, but some services continue in remote areas of the country.



Myanmar's military supports Buddhism as the one and only religion in the country. Also, the Buddhist group Ma Ba Tha has expressed support for the military government. The military has long persecuted Rohingya Muslims and ethnic-minority Christians, including with bombings, torture and attempts to forcefully convert them to Buddhism. Many have fled across the border to Bangladesh, India, Thailand and Malaysia. Unfortunately, all four coun-

tries have sent refugees back to Myanmar or threatened to do so. For example, Malaysia sent 1,086 refugees back to Myanmar shortly after the coup. India announced the deportation of 150 refugees.

During Easter, the army conducted a search at several church organizations in Mohnyin, Katchin state. The military also changed Myanmar's penal code, giving itself the ability to arrest people without warrants and throw people in prison for 20 years if it is found they are "acting against the state."

Pastors are telling their members to pray and intercede for the country in their homes. In less-restricted areas, some pastors and believers have gathered for prayer meetings in their churches. Some are offering weekly online Bible study for pastors in remote areas. Even with increasing restrictions, believers are finding different ways to be salt and light to continue encouraging one another.

If you would like more information about persecuted Christians, or to join the St. Mark's Worldwide Christian Support Task Force, email us at [christiansupport@umcst-marks.org](mailto:christiansupport@umcst-marks.org) or drop us a note in our mailbox at the church office on weekdays.

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## United Methodist Women News

The St. Mark's United Methodist Women do not meet in July or August. Our next monthly meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 14. Watch for details in August and September that may include a combination in-person gathering at church and a Zoom connection for others to participate online.

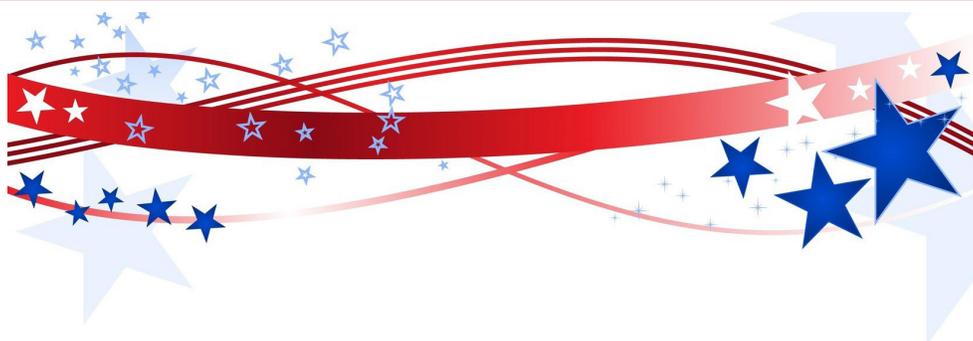


United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

The Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women have planned several summer online mission studies. Participants should plan to buy and read the study book for each of the studies, which include sessions on Friday evening and Saturday morning.

- July 23-24 – "Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools," led by Billie Fidlin of the DSC and Khalil Rushdon of the Arizona ACLU.
- Aug. 13-14 – "Bearing Witness in the Kingdom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship," led by Dior Desormeau, who has served in many leadership capacities and is in the process of becoming a pastor.

Everyone, including non-UMW women, men and youth, is invited to register. Cost is \$20 per study. Contact St. Mark's UMW Secretary Kay Hayworth (see church directory) for information on how to register and order the study book(s).



## Missions Committee Update

A significant portion of your contributions to St. Mark's is automatically designated for Missions. The Missions Committee strives to find a good balance in distributing the money entrusted to us. The Committee has authorized the following distributions for the third quarter:

- \$1,500 – National Military Family Association – For 50 years, this association has supported service members, their spouses and their children through advocacy, innovative programming and responsive solutions.
- \$2,000 – Frontera Wesley – Frontera Wesley is the United Methodist campus ministry at the University of Arizona. It welcomes students of all faith backgrounds and those who are interested in collaborating with people of faith.
- \$1,000 – Thornhill Lopez Center – This center on Fourth Avenue is a SAAF (Southern Arizona Aides Foundation) place for LGBTQ+ and allied youth ages 13-24 to visit and access a variety of services to support their health and well-being.
- \$2,000 – Youth On Their Own – YOTO supports homeless youth in Tucson through a variety of programs. Every year about 62,000 children throughout Arizona find themselves displaced and unaccompanied through no fault of their own.
- \$2,638 – TMM Family Services – The core mission of TMM is to provide quality affordable housing and support services to vulnerable, at-risk individuals, families and seniors to encourage independence, rebuild lives and provide a path out of poverty.
- \$750 – BorderLinks – Through dynamic educational experiences, BorderLinks connects divided communities, raises awareness about the impact of the border and immigration policies and inspires action for social transformation.
- \$1,500 – The United Methodist Committee on Relief – As the humanitarian relief and development arm of the United Methodist Church, UMCOR assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to people in need. All funds donated to UMCOR go directly to helping others. There are no administrative fees deducted.

Thanks for your help and support.  
*John Yost, Missions Committee Chair*

## Nash Neighbors Collection

The St. Mark's Nash Neighbors Committee will once again collect school supplies for Nash Elementary students. We



are asking for the congregation's support in donating supplies. We will collect supplies Mondays and Wednesdays in the north parking lot and will have a blue bin in the church courtyard for those at-

tending Sunday services. Following is our schedule of collection dates:

- 10-11 a.m. Mondays July 12, 19 and 26
- 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays July, 7, 14 and 21
- 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday services July 11, 18 and 25

Suggested donations:

- Hand sanitizer, unscented, 30-34 oz. pump bottles
- Disinfectant wipes, large canisters
- Elmer's glue sticks
- Expo black dry erase markers, thick point
- Pink Pearl erasers
- Scissors, student size

To make a monetary donation, please write "Nash School Supplies" on the memo line of your check and mail the check to the church office. Questions? Contact Barb Sargent (see church directory). Thank you for supporting the children at Nash!

## Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for an opportunity to volunteer and serve the community? The Community Food Bank is looking for volunteers on Thursdays. Please contact the food bank for details and to sign up: 520-622-0525 or [Volunteer@communityfoodbank.org](mailto:Volunteer@communityfoodbank.org).

Interfaith Community Services is looking for volunteers for all kinds of positions, from providing transportation or Mobile Meals for the elderly to friendly phoning to minor home repair. To learn more and/or take advantage of any of these opportunities, register to become a volunteer and attend an upcoming orientation at <https://www.icstucson.org> or contact Tori Carlson at [tcarlson@icstucson.org](mailto:tcarlson@icstucson.org) or 520-526-9308.

# Youth Ministry

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



## Events Calendar

### Middle and High School Students

Sunday, July 4	<b>NO YOUTH – HAPPY 4th OF JULY!</b>	
Saturday, July 10	9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	High School Mission
Sunday, July 11	4-6 p.m.	Messtival Festival
Sunday, July 18	4-6 p.m.	Faith ROCKS!
Sunday, July 25	12:45-3 p.m.	Youth Group at the Movies
Sunday, Aug. 1	4-6 p.m.	Did You Know?
Sunday, Aug. 8	4-6 p.m.	Rally Day!

## Come on Back!

I have really missed all of you since March of last year! I know that the Emmy-worthy videos Kim and I were putting out just amazed and impressed you. And they were fun! But not as much fun as hanging out with you! We have been meeting for an hour on Sundays, but starting in July, we get to increase that and meet for TWO hours. Yay! Be sure to bring your mask and a water bottle each week! – Rachel



## MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

### Happy Fourth of July!

No Youth Group on July 4 this year, so you have time to hang out with your family and celebrate Independence Day!



### Messtival Festival

On July 11, we are going to make a mess! It's going to be a ton of fun that you don't want to miss. Prepare to get messy! (Don't worry, if you don't want to get messy, you don't have to!)

### Faith ROCKS!

Time to paint some rocks! We will paint rocks to "hide" around the church campus and to take home and "hide" for anyone to find, and bring a smile to their faces! No artistic ability necessary, just come have some fun, make some rocks, and/or help us hide them. Of course there will be fun games, too!

### Youth Group at the Movies



What's cooler than going to the movies?? Oh, I don't know – maybe having the WHOLE theater to OURSELVES!?!? We have rented a theater JUST FOR US!

At 12:45 p.m. July 25, meet outside the Foothills AMC. Movie (Back to the Future) is \$5 (scholarships available), and bring money for any snacks you might want! The movie should end at 3 p.m., so you can get picked up there.

### Did You Know?

With school starting, I figured we better practice answering all those questions. On Aug. 1 we will have our very own game show at the Wesley House! Want to help write some of the questions? E-mail Rachel, [rachel@umcstmarks.org](mailto:rachel@umcstmarks.org).



## July Birthdays

- July 10—Jonathan Petrikat-Lindsay
- July 12—James Carsten
- July 17—Abbie Lee
- July 21—Adriana Morales
- July 22—Freder Morrison
- July 26—Owen Morrison
- July 31—Brendan Ritchey



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# Youth Ministry

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



## MIDDLE SCHOOL



We had students from all around the South District participate in Middle School Mission last month! Thank you to everyone who came and helped out! Together we were able to complete five separate missions and help people all around the city of Tucson. We also managed to

sneak in some games and fun.



Hello Friends,

Happy summer!!

It has been so much fun seeing you on Sunday afternoons! Recently, we have enjoyed playing outdoor games, water balloon games and 10 Commandment Hangman.

There are a lot of changes this summer. Our church campus is starting to re-open, we will welcome Pastor Lynn this month, and Rally Day is Aug. 8. On Rally Day, some of you will move up to Youth Group at the Wesley house. There is no Preteen on July 4, and starting on July 11 we will return to our two-hour time slot, 4-6 p.m. See, another change! If you have not previously joined us and would like more information about Preteen (fourth and fifth grade) please send me an email at [julie@umcstmarks.org](mailto:julie@umcstmarks.org). Enjoy your summer and see you at Preteen!

*Blessings - Julie*

## HIGH SCHOOL



God's Work, Our Hands  
High School Mission  
2021

July 10 here at St. Mark's will be our **High School Mission**. Our theme this year is "God's Work, Our Hands." We have a big project to work on and need all the help we can get! This one-day mission experience will be \$25, and scholarships are available! Please sign

up by July 3 so we can get enough materials. Scan this QR code to sign up!



Contact Rachel for more information.

## Welcome Julie Eblen to Her New Position!

We are pleased to announce that Julie Eblen has accepted our offer to serve as the Children and Family Ministries Coordinator. This 15-hour-per-week position was created when Pastor Kim's responsibilities expanded and Rachel Mosher became our full-time Youth and Common Grounds Coordinator, leaving a need for support in Family Ministries. Children's ministries had been part of Margaret Synhorst's responsibilities, before her resignation and move to Texas.

Julie is no stranger to the St. Mark's UMC staff. She has been the Preteen youth leader (you have probably read her Messenger articles each month to the fourth and fifth graders), a child care worker and the Soul Station Children's Ministries Coordinator. Julie notes that the children and youth of St. Mark's are an important part of the congregation and she wants to be part of their faith journey and support their Christian learning.

Julie begins her new job immediately. As a member of the Christian Formation Team, she will work with the Children's Education Committee, the Children and Family Ministries Committees, our staff and volunteers to ensure quality programs and ministries for children and young families.

We are very excited to have Julie Eblen as our Children and Family Ministries Coordinator. In this transition, Julie will leave her current position as PreTeen and Soul Station Children's Ministries Coordinator. If you love kids and you're interested in doing fun stuff with them on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, watch for the job posting on our website. You can also contact Pastor Kim, [kim@umcstmarks.org](mailto:kim@umcstmarks.org).

## The 'Other Pandemic' Continued ...

As you know, "the pandemic" is the one we are still battling – COVID-19. The other is the one that preceded it – HIV/AIDS. The facts, figures and quotes in this article are gleaned from a June 5 Associated Press article in the Arizona Republic. The AP quoted Jeffrey Crowley at Georgetown University regarding fighting and finding a cure for HIV/AIDS, "COVID was a huge setback." The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 670,000 fewer HIV screening tests took place between March 13 and Sept. 30 in 2020 than in 2019. That could mean about 4,900 fewer diagnoses. In other words, more infected people who do not know they are contagious are able to infect at least that many more! Dr. Rochelle Walensky of the CDC has noted that "drug overdoses are still rising and that is one way people spread HIV."

We are fighting two pandemics. Join us on the HIV/AIDS Committee and, along with our community partners TIHAN\* and SAAF\*, fight the scourge of HIV/AIDS! Email Pat Small at ([see church directory](#)).

\*Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network & Southern AZ AIDS Foundation



## Volunteers Needed at The INN

ICE is bringing our legal asylum seekers who have crossed at Nogales and Yuma to Casa Alitas at Ajo Way and Kino Parkway. There, they are immediately tested for COVID-19 and then vaccinated with the one-shot vaccine. Then we transport the families we are assigned to a local motel (motel owners are actively involved in helping).



Assigned to a room, each family finds health kits for all members and breakfast for the next morning, and they have sole use of their own bathroom/

shower facilities. Additional meals are brought to them the next day if they haven't left. We assist in contacting their family/friend destinations who then make arrangements for their travelers by bus or plane. Then, it's our mission to transport them to the bus or airport to see them off.

## ICS July 'Peanut Butter Party'

St. Mark's will participate along with 119 other affiliated churches in the July Peanut Butter Party for Interfaith Community Services. Peanut butter is the food bank's most-needed item, with more than 2,000 jars distributed every month. The goal is to collect 10,000 jars in July. St. Mark's has been a leading faith community contributor to the ICS Food Bank, donating more 28,000 pounds of food since last April, and we hope to lead the way in collecting peanut butter too. **The smaller 16-ounce jars are the preferred purchase.** The generic brands are usually priced around \$1.50 per jar at most stores.



If you are able, please consider donating a few or a lot of jars of peanut butter during July. Perhaps you can ask friends and family to help as well.

Three ways to donate peanut butter starting July 1:

1. Bring your jars to church any Sunday in July. The church courtyard will have a drop-off point.
2. We will continue with our normal ICS Food Bank collection from 10-11 a.m. every Tuesday and Saturday morning in the north parking lot of the church. You can bring your peanut butter along with other food donations just like we have done in the past.
3. If the above times do not work for you, bring your peanut butter to the church office at your convenience during July, and we will take care of it from there.

St. Mark's is a generous, caring, congregation. Our stated No. 1 priority is, "St. Mark's United Methodist Church will bring Christ to the world by taking church out into the world." Let's continue our good work and have fun by participating in the July Peanut Butter Party!

There are many ways in which you can help: Spanish is NOT needed for quite a few of these.

1. Volunteers who can help with the 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1-5 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. shifts 7 days/week.
2. Drivers to transport guests from Casa Alitas to our motel (Grant and I-10), about 15 miles round trip.
3. Drivers to be on call to transport guests to bus station or to airport. The airport will probably involve going in with them for tickets, TSA and boarding. Counter will give you a pass to accompany them.

For the above positions, please sign up to volunteer using this form: <https://dscumc.org/secure/ip-registration>. You should then receive the SignUp Genius form. If you do not, please contact Gretchen at 520-330-8146.

Please prayerfully consider "welcoming the stranger and family" – truly one of Christ's charges to us. Questions? I'll try to answer if I can. I'm re-learning, too. *Yours in Christ, Kathie Barrett,* (see church directory for contact info).

# PRAYER CORNER

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

Don Beene  
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

## JULY-AUGUST DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE



The July-August edition of the Upper Room devotional is now available for pickup in the Sanctuary narthex, the church office and the black mailbox outside the church office.

The updated, summer edition of the church directory is also in the black mailbox.

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED JULY 5

Because Independence Day falls on a Sunday this year, the church office will be CLOSED Monday, July 5 in observance of the federal holiday.



Have a safe and happy Independence Day! (Remember to keep your dogs inside and make sure they have tags or microchips in case they get spooked and get away during fireworks!)



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. Lynn Bartlow  
**Associate Pastor:**  
Rev. Stuart Salvatierra  
**Christian Formation  
and Outreach Pastor:**  
Kim Ogle

**Sunday Worship**  
Limited in-person attendance  
8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

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...

St Mark's is a wonderful church family. I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, phone calls and even flowers when I broke my pelvis and spent a month in rehab and two months at home. I am finally recovered enough that I can drive and leave home. It was so uplifting to get all the love and blessings from everyone.  
*Thank you so much, Clara Campbell*

I cannot thank you enough for your cards, your compassion and your tender, caring mercies and ministries to me and my family. Soon after we joined St. Mark's, we realized this was a very special congregation who not only freely shares joys and sorrows, but also generously reaches out to help others. I feel so uplifted in your presence and want to follow in our St. Mark's tradition of being a blessing and comfort to others, as you have been to me.  
*Kathie Barrett*

The "Sharon" the Love celebration video received rave reviews. Each person, each skit, each video clip added up to an amazing, special and fun tribute to Pastor Sharon and her St. Mark's legacy. "Thank you" hardly seems enough to share our debt of gratitude to you but it is deeply heartfelt. There was something for everybody! Many, many comments were made about The Ragland family contributions ... sweet.  
*Blessings to All! SPRC Farewell Celebration Team*

## Altar Flowers

One of the ways that our congregation serves the church is to provide altar flowers for Sunday worship. This year, there are still some openings for altar flowers. Perhaps you would like to dedicate flowers in honor or memory of a loved one? If you wish to dedicate flowers for one or more Sundays, simply sign up on the board in the Sanctuary narthex.

## July 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. If you are reading this online, visit this link:

[https://umcstmarks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/monthlyprayerlist\\_web0721.pdf](https://umcstmarks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/monthlyprayerlist_web0721.pdf)

✿ Ask God's blessing of, and help us warmly welcome the ministry and leadership of, Rev. Lynn Bartlow, our new lead pastor. May God bless and guide the Bartlow family moving to Tucson and settling in among us.

✿ Ask God's guidance and help for Pastor Lynn and the St. Mark's staff and church leaders to accomplish a smooth transition as we learn and grow, and as we minister and serve together. May we share Christ's love and care for each other, for our community and the world.

✿ Give thanks for the ongoing collection of non-perishable food items for the Interfaith Community Services Food Bank happening from 10-11 a.m. every Tuesday and Saturday in the church's north parking lot. NOTE: We are asked to bring lots and lots of jars of peanut butter during the month of July.

✿ Ask God's blessings as we collect specific school supplies for Nash Elementary School students again this year. NOTE: For more information, see the July Messenger or call the church office at 520-297-2062.

✿ Give thanks for the St. Mark's in-person worship services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary. May God bless these worship gatherings with COVID-19 safety protocols for all. NOTE: Registration is required for the 10 a.m. service, but not for those who want to attend at 8 a.m. To register, watch for an email Monday mornings or call the church office at 520-297-2062.

✿ Pray God's blessings for the pre-recorded worship services each week, and for all the people who want and like this recorded option. Give thanks for our Worship Committee, pastors and staff, musicians, technical staff and volunteers who provide this each week.

✿ Pray for good participation and God's blessing of the St. Mark's High School Mission opportunity Saturday, July 10. May our young people be blessed and be a blessing to all those who benefit from this mission/service experience.

✿ Pray for all those who plan to read and attend the Zoom discussion of the book "The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life" the evening of Monday, July 26. NOTE: Registration is required via the church's website under "Classes."

✿ Pray God's healing power will surround all those with COVID-19 and other illnesses and health issues. Pray for St. Mark's members, our families and friends who have had recent surgeries, received medical treatments, and/or have had stays in the hospital. Pray also for those who are recovering at home or in rehab facilities.

✿ Give thanks for the COVID-19 restrictions that continue to change, and for all the people who are fully vaccinated, or have received their first vaccination in Tucson/Pima County. Pray God's blessings for the safety protocols and people needed for St. Mark's small groups to start meeting at church again.

✿ Pray our Racial Equity Task Force will find meaningful ways to introduce our congregation to racial justice issues and how St. Mark's may advocate for racial equity. While we pray that all our siblings of color would be safe and well, we ask special protection over the Asian American community as they continue to bear the brunt of recent anti-Asian violence. Also, pray for an end to hate; remembering how Jesus called us to love one another.

✿ South District Superintendent Rev. Matt Ashley asks us to pray for other church pastors and their ministries each month. The request for July is for El Mesias UMC in Nogales, Grace UMC in Douglas and the camping program in the South District.

## Reflections

### **About My Family and Me**

I grew up in rural northern Florida, eight miles south of the Georgia border in Madison County. I grew up with my parents and two sisters on 80 acres of cow pasture, and in 4-H I raised chickens and learned to cook and sew. After high school, I attended Florida Southern College, a United Methodist college in Lakeland, Florida.

After several summer and post-college jobs in local churches, I attended Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary – after Pastor Sharon but before Pastor Stuart! I met my husband, Ron, there, and we married after graduation. I served two appointments in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and was ordained in 2006, five months pregnant! We moved shortly afterwards to the Desert Southwest Conference, where my husband was raised (he's a Mesa High School and Northern Arizona University graduate).

In this conference, I have served at Song of Life United Methodist Church in Queen Creek and as the co-pastor and then lead pastor at Trinity

Heights United Methodist Church in Flagstaff.

Ron and I have two children, Will and Kate. Ron is the newly appointed pastor at St. Paul's UMC here in Tucson, and our house is closer to his church. Will and Kate will attend BASIS Tucson North, in the ninth and seventh grades. We like to play board games, read and pretend to hike. In actuality, we watch way too much television and the rest of the family plays Xbox games while I read on my tablet.

We already have a membership to the Reid Park Zoo and a National Parks pass, and we anticipate we will have a membership to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum pretty soon! We have not explored Tucson much so we are excited to begin doing that when the temperatures cool down!

I look forward to seeing you for the first time in church on July 4 and sharing my first sermon with you the following Sunday, July 11.

*Blessings,  
Lynn*