

Messenger

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

Volume 61, Number 9
July 21, 2021

St. Mark's
United Methodist

Special Edition



St. Mark's Rally Day is Sunday, Aug. 8

Get ready for Rally Day!

Children—The children will move up to the next grade level in recognition of the start of a new school year. The classes will have fun activities to celebrate this day together. Sunday School registration is required for all children in the program and is easy to register in advance from our website, www.umcstmarks.org. Select "Resources" from the main menu, then "Forms."

Youth—PreTeens and Youth Group are both great ways to meet friends, get involved and engage with young people who attend our church or who live in the community (friends are always welcome). Each age-specific group meets on most Sundays for games, activities and outings with the main focus of growing in faith as they share experiences with their peers. Learn more about plans for the fall on page 2.

Adults—Join us in the courtyard after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. worship services Aug. 1 and Aug. 8 to discuss upcoming classes and sign up. See the center spread of this newsletter for exciting Adult Spiritual Growth opportunities! From studies on different kinds of inclusion, to comparing religions, to learning about unnamed women in the Bible! The Adult Spiritual Growth Committee will be ready to help you get signed up for your next step. Stop by and visit.

Volunteers Needed as St. Marks Returns to 'Normal'

As our church campus slowly re-opens, opportunities for volunteering are beginning to pop up.

Why should you volunteer? The church family benefits!

- You may be behind the scenes, but without you, nothing happens!
- You'll get to know church staff, leadership and members!

The time you spend volunteering allows our staff to do more things for our church family.

- Volunteering is easy, and we will train you!
- There are jobs you can do within your own time commitments.
- Volunteering is satisfying.
- You'll meet new people.
- You may learn new skills and get a good feeling knowing you've done something important.



It's easy to get started. Email info@umcstmarks.org about the volunteer work available. Include areas in which you have volunteered in the past, or skills/interests you have.

Youth Ministry

PreTeens: Guess what? Rally Day is almost here! Aug. 8 is the BIG day when all students who will be in fourth or fifth grade this year are invited to join the St. Mark's PreTeen group. This year we will celebrate Rally Day with a WATER SLIDE PARTY! YAY!! (Permission slips are required and can be found on the church website, <https://umcstmarks.org>, under "Resources" --> "Forms." Hard copies will be available on Rally Day.) PreTeen is a youth group for fourth and fifth graders and meets from 4-6 p.m. Sundays in rooms 8/9. At PreTeen group we have fun playing games, completing craft projects and activities and making our own snacks, and occasionally we go on field trips or do mission projects, all while learning about Jesus, exploring our faith and making friends. Please plan to join us from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 8 for Rally Day. You will need to wear your swimsuit and bring a towel and a water bottle. You will also need a mask to wear when we are not on the slides. You may email julie@umcstmarks.org if you have any questions, would like more information or to be added to the PreTeen email list. Hope to see you on Rally Day!

Youth Group: Aug. 8 is such an exciting day all over the St. Mark's campus, even over at the Wesley House! At 10 a.m., we start our Sunday School year for students in grades 6-12. Come check it out! But the fun doesn't stop there! Come back from 4-6 p.m. for our awesome Youth Group kickoff! This year, you will want to wear a swimsuit or clothing that can get REALLY wet! Come cool off with us!

Youth Permission Slips: Happy New Year!! Well ... Happy New Youth Group Year! To celebrate, let's all fill out new permission slips! Doesn't that sound fun and exciting!? Our permission slips also double as our registration, so it is important to have new forms on file each year. You can download a new form on the St. Mark's website (go to the "Resources" dropdown and then click on "Forms"), or they will be available at the Wesley House on Aug. 8.

Youth Back to School with the South District: Who is ready to **jump** into the new school year!? Join other South District youth as we **zip** along and **defy** all odds together! Details will be in the August youth page, and you definitely don't want to **SLEEP** through this one. **WAKE UP** and check out the information in the August youth page! Have a guess? See Rachel on any Sunday and tell her your guess!

Confirmation starts in September for students in grades 8-12 who have not yet completed Confirmation. Watch for more information.

Children



We are SO EXCITED to be going back to in-person weekly (at 10 a.m.) Sunday School! Our wonderful Sunday School teachers are busy planning for Rally Day on Sunday, Aug. 8. On Rally Day, students will move to their new Sunday School classrooms based on their grade/age for the 2021 – 2022 school year. To find the Sunday School registration forms, please go to the St. Marks website, <https://umcstmarks.org>, then go to the "Resources" dropdown menu and click "Forms." We will also have hard copies available at church on Rally Day. Please join us on Rally Day for **fun activities and a cool treat!** Masks are still required for students in kindergarten through high school. **We can't wait to see you at 10 a.m. on Rally Day!**

Sunday School Classrooms:

Preschool – Room 2
Grades K-1 – Room 3
Grades 2-3 – Room 6/7
Grades 4-5 – Room 8/9
Middle (grades 6-8) and high school – Wesley House

Family Ministries

Family Ministries usually has exciting events planned all year long! These events are fun ways to grow in fellowship with other families from our church and the community. Family Ministries always provides exciting activities for families of all shapes and sizes.

The Family Ministries Committee is looking for **new volunteers** to assist with planning activities for this year. We are looking ahead and making plans for our fall church activities and would LOVE to have you join us and share your ideas. Please email Julie Eblen at julie@umcstmarks.org for more info.

New Sunday Sermon Series

As our kids go back to school, the rest of us are invited to embrace a lifelong love of learning as well! We learn about the people we love and the people we need to love. We learn about the world around us and learn how we can love even those who are hard to love. We learn how to love God a little more each day. Join us in worship as we explore *love as learning*.



Aug. 1: Elisha: More Than Enough (last in the previous series)

Join us as we go back to school!

Aug. 8: An Appetite for Instruction

Aug. 15: Lessons from Second Grade

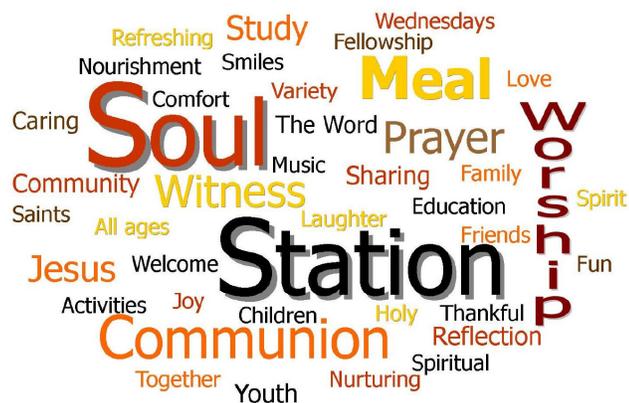
Aug. 22: Lessons on Life, the Universe, and Everything

Aug. 29: Beginning on this date, we will jump into a five-week series on the book of James, as we discover how love is faith in action!

Soul Station Midweek Service

Soul Station Relaunches in August!

We are deeply excited to share with you that Soul Station is returning Aug. 4 in a **new hybrid format!** Whether you decide to come in person or to attend online via Zoom, you will be able to take part in this wonderful mid-week service. Please come for food, fellowship, a faith-building study and Holy Communion on Wednesdays. We will start at 5:30 p.m. Tucson time with food and fellowship. The program and Holy Communion will start at 6:30 p.m. Coming in person? Please brown-bag your own dinner for the evening. Other questions? Please ring the church office (520-297-2062) or send an email to Pastor Stuart (stuart@umcstmarks.org). We cannot wait to have you come and be part of this thrilling launch!



'Just Breathe' Holy Yoga

Yoga
is for
Every
BODY
TYPE



The Gospels tell us to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” Holy Yoga provides an opportunity for fellowship with others while stretching, practicing controlled breathing techniques, reflecting on scriptures, building flexibility and strength, and once in a while, breaking a sweat!

No matter what level you are, whether you are someone who takes regular exercise or regularly avoids it, there is a place for you at Holy Yoga. There is no expectation of prior experience or strength. Holy Yoga is for everybody and Every Body! Come as you are – we have mats, straps, and blocks available for borrowing. The only thing we don't have ... is *you!*

Just Breathe will resume soon! Look for announcements on the website and the Messenger.

For more information, contact Tricia at 520-297-2062.

To view recorded Zoom sessions, you can visit <https://sites.google.com/view/justbreatheyoga/home>.

Tricia is a registered and certified Holy Yoga Instructor. She also holds a certification in Children and Youth Yoga. Tricia has been teaching a Holy Yoga inspired class at St Mark's since 2018.

There is a suggested donation of \$5 per class. This covers instructor pay, purchase of materials, Holy Yoga® scholarships and charitable donations to other ministries.

With Just Breathe, if you want to come in and lie on your mat and – Just. Breathe. – that's ok and welcomed! Sometimes Just Breathing is what we really need.

Adult Spiritual Growth

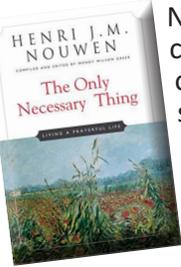
Faith is a journey!

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.

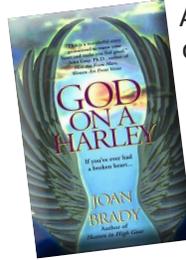
July 26 – The Only Necessary Thing: Living A Prayerful Life by Henri Nouwen (1999) – led by Rev. Dr. Roger Pierce

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.



Ongoing Classes

Open Minds Book Discussion resumes in September. Co-leaders: Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban. Watch for detailed information in the August *Messenger*.

Family Life/Sharing Adult Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. in rooms 17/18 or via Zoom (hybrid). Around Rally Day, we will start a 10-week book/video study, "Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today," by Adam Hamilton. Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of "thou-shalt-nots" found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life. These ancient words were given to us by a loving God who longed to set safe boundaries, create order out of chaos, help communities live peacefully, and protect us—often from ourselves.

In this book of Scripture and inspiration, bestselling author Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt." He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence and peace.

We'd love to welcome you to our class, whether just for this study or long term. To learn more about the class, contact the co-leaders Rick Farnsworth or Terry Majewski (see church directory).

Seekers Adult Sunday School – 11:15 a.m. via Zoom. The class began discussion of 1 Corinthians on June 6. No text necessary – just bring your Bible. A study Bible of any kind is highly recommended but not required. To learn more about this class, contact leaders Brenda Hunter or Kelly Deyoe (see church directory).

Wednesday Morning Study Group to reconvene 10 to 11:30 a.m. Sept. 8 in rooms 17/18 or via Zoom (hybrid). This group will follow current safety recommendations whenever gathering – led by Marcia Rostad. In general, this class customarily concentrates on a variety of short-term studies, each lasting four to six weeks. Anyone may either regularly attend or come whenever a study is of personal interest.

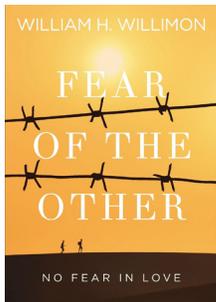
The class will begin the six-week study, "Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith," by Tom Berlin. Jesus was a model of brave faith throughout his ministry on earth. While he stood his ground when challenged by his enemies, do we demonstrate similar courage whenever confronted by our detractors? This study will challenge us to unlock the courage we already possess as Christ followers. More information about class registration and how to obtain the participant book will follow in the next *Messenger*.

ASG Fall Lineup

Learn, Love, Grow Together Seven-Day Challenge – Aug. 15-23. Join us for the theological background concerning LGBTQI+. Have you always wondered exactly what the Bible says about this and why? Have you ever wondered about seemingly contradictory statements in the Bible? What exactly does the United Methodist Church say about homosexuality? How are churches in the Desert Southwest Conference and the Western Jurisdiction handling all of this?

An informational meeting on Sunday, Aug. 15 will give you all the specifics you need to participate in this challenge. 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 Monday, Aug. 23.

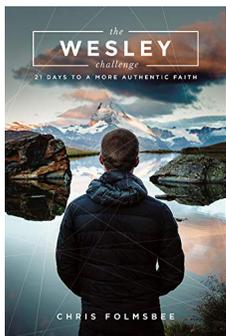
The format (Zoom, in person, hybrid) for this discussion will depend on the number of participants. There is no cost involved.



The Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love by William H. Willimon – 1:30 to 3 p.m. Mondays, Aug. 23-Sept. 27 (five weeks) – led by Linda Walker and Pastor Stuart. This most timely book deals with the divisiveness in our culture. How many of us have said, "I wish there were something I could do about this atmosphere of hostility where everyone feels compelled to take sides and demonize the others?"

It has seemed hopeless, hasn't it? Now there is a chance for us as followers of Christ to learn to lead the way and show that whether or not we agree, we can listen and work together in love. Books are available on Amazon and Cokesbury. No class Sept. 6.

This class will be held in person with a Zoom option.



The 21-Day Wesley Challenge: To a More Authentic Faith – Sept. 5-27 – leaders TBA. This study reminds us that intentional thought and deliberate action are transformative instruments of grace. The 21 questions will engage us in our physical, spiritual and emotional lives as well as our relationships with God and others. Each question includes Scripture, prayer and thoughts for reflection. A group discussion concerning the daily reading and activities will take

place at the end of each week. The book is available through Cokesbury or Amazon in various formats from \$9.99+. More details coming in the August *Messenger*.

The format (Zoom, in-person, hybrid) for the discussions will depend on the number of participants.

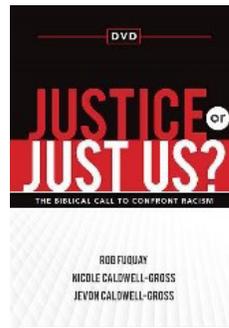
Comparative Religions – 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 2-Oct. 7 – led by Marlyce Wright. Have you ever wondered what the main differences are between the major religions

of the world – Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity? Join in this video-based class to see what doctrines and beliefs underlie these. What are some basic similarities, and of course the differences? Come to a new appreciation of the diversity of faith in our world.

This is an in-person class.

Unnamed Women of the Bible – 1 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 7-Oct. 5 – led by Pastor Helen Schindler. NOT for women only! Who were those women who are simply referred to in Scripture as someone's mother, or daughter, or simply a woman to whom something happened but no name was given to her? We all know about Mary and Elizabeth, Mary Magdalene and Lydia, and Rachel and Leah, but what about the Widow of Zarahath or the Wise Woman of Tekoah? What role did the Shunammite Woman play in God's plan and why is it important to us? Let's explore these women and others in a five-week study and see what their lives have to tell us today. Your Bible is the text for this study.

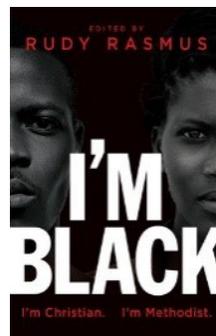
This will be an in-person class.



Justice or Just Us? By Rob Fuquay, Nicole Caldwell-Gross, Jevon Caldwell-Gross – 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 30-Oct. 28 (five weeks) – leaders TBA.

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, with week five set aside for deeper discussion. There is no cost.

The format (Zoom, in-person, hybrid) for the discussions will depend on the number of participants.



I'm Black, I'm Christian, I'm Methodist – 6:30 to 8 p.m. Mondays, Nov. 1-22 (four weeks) – leaders TBA.

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. The book is available through Cokesbury and Amazon in various formats from \$9.99+.

The format (Zoom, in-person, hybrid) for the discussions will depend on the number of participants.

School Supplies Drive

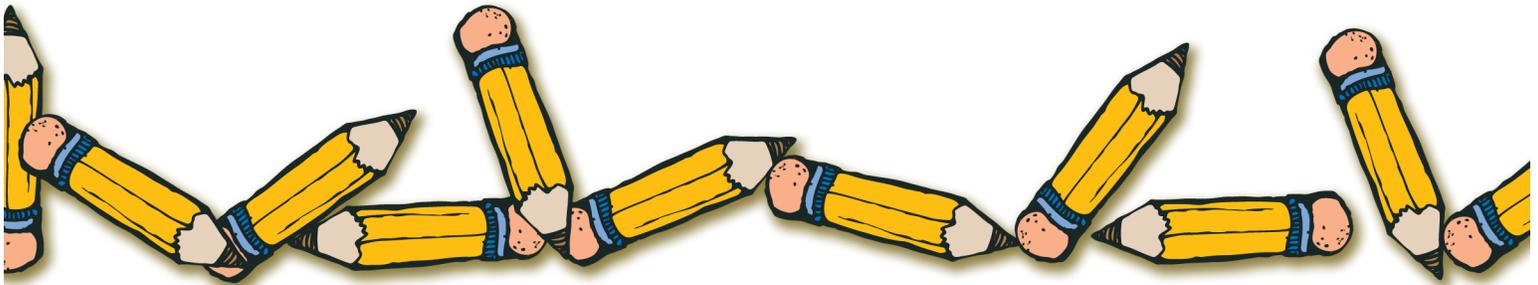
The St. Mark's Nash Neighbors Committee has been collecting school supplies for Nash Elementary students. We are asking for the congregation's support in donating supplies. We are collecting supplies in the north parking lot and have a blue bin in the church courtyard for those attending Sunday services. Following is our schedule of remaining collection dates:

- 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, July 21
- 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday services July 25

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!

Suggested donations:

- **Black Dry Erase Markers**
- **Pink Pearl Erasers**
- **Elmer's Glue Sticks**
- **Scissors, student size**
- **Hand Sanitizer, 30-34 oz pump bottles**
- **Disinfectant Wipes, large canisters**



PRAYER CORNER

We are a praying community at St. Mark's. You may submit prayer requests by email to prayerchain@umcstmarks.org or via the church website at <https://umcstmarks.org/prayer-request>.

*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*

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

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

Hank Bautzmann, son of Nancy Bautzmann
Alex Boettcher, grandson of Carla & Paul Boettcher
Jacob W. Boettcher, grandson of Carla & Paul Boettcher
Christian Bowers, grandson of Doug & Charlotte Bowers
Jon Chytka, nephew of Donna Severson
Zachary Dojaquez, grandson of Donna Severson
Patrick Emmett, son of Julie Wiens
Mike Freeman, son of Ken & Ann Freeman
Garrett Geer, grandson of Ellen Wise
Matthew Hughey, son of Juliee & Billy Morrison and grandson of Joyce Flick
Rachel Kester, daughter of Don & Ruth Kester
Don Lauver, Son-in-law of Linda Connolly

Sam Lennarson, grandson of John & Sherri Lennarson
Chad Long, grandson of Pat Long
Jake Newton, son of Robert & Cheri Newton
John O'Regan, husband of Ashley O'Regan and grandson-in-law of Janet Krug
Brian Osborn, pastor in the DSW Conference
William Putt, son of Harold & Susan Putt
Geoffrey Shafe, grandson of Mary Langemeier
Clint Staschke, son-in-law of Cliff & June Young
Michael and Karisa Szczygiel, daughter and son-in-law of Joyce Flick
Brianna Walker, granddaughter of Barbara Fradenburgh; niece of Joan Fradenburgh



Calendar Notes

Sun., July 25

8:00 a.m. In-person Worship, Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Online Worship
10:00 a.m. In-person Worship, Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Family Life/Sharing, Rm 17/18/Zoom hybrid
11:15 a.m. Seekers, Zoom
12:45 p.m. Youth Group at the movies
4:00 p.m. PreTeens, Rm 8/9

Mon., July 26

9:00 a.m. Bible Reflection, Zoom
6:30 p.m. ASG Book Discussion (The Only Necessary Thing),
Zoom

Tue., July 27

10:00 a.m. ICS Food Collection (Peanut Butter), N parking lot
Noon AUGUST MESSENGER DEADLINE

Wed., July 28

10:00 a.m. Morning Study Group, Zoom

10:30 a.m. Chronic Illness/Pain Support Group
Noon BULLETIN DEADLINE

Thurs., July 29

9:00 a.m. Quilters, Rm 17/18

Sat., July 31

10:00 a.m. ICS Food Collection (Peanut Butter), N parking lot

Sun., Aug. 1

8:00 a.m. In-person Worship, Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Online Worship
10:00 a.m. In-person Worship, Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Family Life/Sharing, Rm 17/18/Zoom hybrid
11:15 a.m. Seekers, Zoom
4:00 p.m. PreTeens, Rm 8/9
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, Wesley House

Mon., Aug. 2

9:00 a.m. Bible Reflection, Zoom

CHRISTIAN FORMATION JOB OPENING

If you love kids, are interested in a part-time position, and want to be part of the Christian Formation Team at St Mark's, you need to check out this post – <https://umcstmarks.org/about-us/job-opportunities>.

UMW STUDIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN

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 Kin-dom: 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).

ICS JULY PEANUT BUTTER PARTY

Interfaith Community Services is asking all its church communities to participate in its July Peanut Butter Party by donating as many jars as we can throughout the month. The preferred donation is the smaller 14- to 16-oz. jars. Three ways to donate: 1. Drop off your jars in the courtyard before church services each Sunday in July. 2. Bring your donations from 10-11 a.m. every Tuesday and Saturday in the north parking lot. 3. Drop off your donation at the church office during normal hours, and we will get it picked up.



St. Mark's UMC
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(520) 297-2062

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

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

Sunday Worship
In person
8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Online
9:45 a.m.
umcstmarks.org/live-worship
YouTube:
UMC St. Mark's Oro Valley
or access the YouTube link
via Facebook
St. Mark's UMC Tucson

Address Service Requested

If you would like to receive the Messenger electronically and discontinue your paper copy, submit a request to messenger@umcstmarks.org

Reflections

It's back-to-school time! Seriously?!?

My Facebook memories reminded me that my son started kindergarten on July 15. While we are thankfully not going back to school that early here in the Tucson area, Aug. 5 still seems early to me!

This year, we face the new school year with a little more anxiety than other years. Not only are we back to school after two weird years, our family is in a new school in a new community. AND we have a high schooler! What time will school start? What does lunch look like? What does the school even look like?!? Then there are the usual back-to-school questions: Will I make friends? Will I hate my classes? What do I wear?



This school year could be a return to things as they were, but right now, we just don't know. We do know that we aren't alone in the stresses that we face. One of my favorite verses from Scripture is that God will never leave us nor forsake us (my paraphrase, Joshua 1:5). So as you send your kids out the door, know that God goes with them. As you enter the classroom for a new school year, know that God goes with you. As you face your anxiety over all that is to come, know that God is with you.

Sometimes, that reminder can give us the courage to do anything.
See you soon,
Pastor Lynn