

August 2021

Prayers

St. Mark's United Methodist

Ask God's continued blessing of Pastor Lynn Bartlow's new ministry and leadership here at St. Mark's. Pray God's help and guidance as the Bartlow family settles into their new life in Tucson, new schools for the children and new places and opportunities to worship and serve among us.

Pray God's blessings for all students, teachers and administrators as school begins this month. Pray God's safety, good health and protection in the classrooms and in all school activities and events.

May God bless the start of a new Sunday School year for our children, preteens and youth groups with Rally Day on Sunday, Aug. 8. This is a time to meet and/or see again our Sunday School teachers and helpers – get acquainted, find your classroom, etc. NOTE: Sunday School starts at 10 a.m.

Ask God to nudge many of us (or maybe even most of us!) to call the church office or email info@umcstmarks.org to find out about volunteer opportunities, i.e., ways we can help St. Mark's open up and get back to "normal" after the COVID shutdown. Some work is on Sunday mornings, while other work can be done within your own time commitments.

Pray God's blessings for our opportunity to embrace a "Lifelong Love of Learning" in our new Sunday sermon series, Aug. 8-22. On Aug. 29, we will start a five-week series on the book of James called "Faith in Action."

Pray God's blessings on the Soul Station midweek service, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4. You may come to Fellowship Hall for in-person fellowship or connect online via Zoom. In-person participants should bring a "brown bag" meal. The program with Communion is scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m.

Give thanks for Adult Spiritual Growth opportunities this month. You can watch videos, listen to podcasts and read articles in the "Learn, Love Grow Together 7-Day Challenge" Aug. 15-23, and/or participate in the study, "The Fear of the Other," Monday afternoons beginning Aug. 23. Please register for these classes via bulletin board in the courtyard on Sunday mornings, via the church website or by calling the church office.

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.

Give thanks for all the school supplies donated by our congregation for students and teachers at Nash Elementary School. Ask God's blessings for all Nash students, teachers, administrators and parents/families as the new school year begins.

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

Give thanks for the COVID vaccinations and for everyone who has been vaccinated. Pray God's protection of non-vaccinated children and adults for them to remain healthy, and when possible, to self-isolate and not carry the virus to others.

Pray for the health, safety and protection of all doctors, nurses, other health care-workers and first responders as the number of COVID cases continues to increase.

Ask God's guidance and protection as COVID restrictions continue to change and there is new concern for the spread of the COVID Delta variant in Arizona and in our world.

Pray our Racial Equity Task Force will find meaningful ways to introduce our congregation to racial justice issues and show 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 August is for New Hope UMC, St. James UMC, and St. Francis in the Foothills UMC – all in Tucson.