

Messenger

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

St. Mark's
United Methodist

"Come and See ..."

What the Stewardship Campaign is All About

The theme for the 2022 Stewardship Campaign is adapted from John 1:39. Jesus is gathering his first disciples with the wonderful invitation – "Come and see." Come and see for yourselves. Come and experience something firsthand.

This year's stewardship campaign invites you to commit to the five membership vows. Come and experience for yourselves what happens when you commit your prayers, your



presence, your gifts, your service and your witness to St. Mark's. You will hear from four individuals witnessing about their journeys of faith and how prayers, presence, gifts and service influenced their lives. Your commitment

to the membership vows will help St. Mark's return our campus to more normal operations. Your commitment will help St. Mark's resume many pre-COVID activities that have been curtailed. And maybe you will find the joy I have found in helping St. Mark's "Change the world through Christ, by caring for all people." Come and see.

– Bill Zermuehlen, Finance Committee Chair

Below and on the next page you'll read about several ministries here at St. Mark's that are seeking volunteers, thereby offering an opportunity to fulfill your membership vow of "service." There's a place for everyone. Come and see!



The St. Mark's mission statement is to "Change the world through Christ, by caring for all people." Are you not satisfied with the state of our world as it is today? Do you want to be a change agent, through Christ, for the least of our neighbors? Then join us on the **Church and Society Committee** as we advocate for the

least of those in our world and bring about positive change to their lives. Contact Mark Hrabe, chair (see directory).

The **Children's Ministry Committee** meets at 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month to plan and discuss programs and activities relating to the children of St. Mark's. This includes Sunday School curriculum, Advent and Easter events and of course Vacation Bible School. If you would like to provide input into these activities as a committee member or just be an extra pair of hands in the preschool Sunday School classroom

Continued on next page

Pumpkins Arrive Oct. 9

Every year, when I start planning for the pumpkin patch, I look forward to our fun and festive space right along La Cañada. I love that when I tell people about the amazing church I attend, they always say, "Oh! The one with the pumpkins!?" But it isn't just that I love pumpkins (I do). It isn't just that I think fall is such a fun season (I do).



That pumpkin patch is such an awesome symbol of our church family. We typically get hundreds of pumpkins delivered here on a BIG semi. Somehow our beautiful desert property transforms into a pumpkin patch where the community comes to take pictures, pick out pumpkins, and take a minute to enjoy fall. This doesn't happen quickly, and it doesn't happen on its own! Our church community pulls together and works hard to unload all those orange beauties (and sometimes some beautiful gourds). Our youth still have school and other commitments, so our amazing members sign up to help staff the patch. And of course, what's a fundraiser without customers!?



There are so many ways you can help! Watch your email in the next few days for the time of delivery on Oct. 9! Come have fun and help get the patch all set up and ready on that day. Sign up to sell pumpkins either by yourself or with a friend using the church website (under "Announcements" on the home page) or by pointing

your smartphone camera at the QR code attached here! I look forward to the community I will see outside my window this month! Thanks for all your help, church family!

– Rachel Mosher, Youth and Common Grounds Coordinator

SAVE THE DATE: Parking lot picnic and costume parade, free popcorn and a MOVIE Oct. 29

Parking opens at 5:30 p.m. and festivities begin at 6 p.m. Bring a picnic dinner and be ready to participate in a costume parade before settling down to watch a creepy, spooky, altogether ooky PG-rated movie! See you then!

please contact Julie Eblen, julie@umcstmarks.org, and come join this amazing committee. We are also looking ahead to Vacation Bible School the first week of June 2022 so save the date and plan to join the fun of VBS!!

The **Family Ministry Committee** is looking for volunteers to help plan and host events for the families of St. Mark's as well as for the larger community. The community fall and Easter events are designed to help grow our church by reaching out and inviting others to join our St. Mark's family. Have an idea for an event? Bring your idea and come join the St. Mark's Family Ministry Committee! For more information contact Julie Eblen, julie@umcstmarks.org.

What are you interested in studying? What do you think St. Mark's should offer in the area of adult Christian spiritual growth? You can help us with this in a couple of ways:

1. Bring an idea to the **Adult Spiritual Growth Committee** and/or
2. Join the committee and help expand our vision of how to deepen and grow in our spiritual life.

Contact Judy Boroto (see church directory) with questions or ideas.

The **Worship Committee**

needs volunteers to join us in creating weekly altars on a rotating schedule, preparing the Sanctuary for Christmas and Easter, and helping with various activities



concerning worship in the Sanctuary.

- Have you been in the St. Mark's Sanctuary on Sunday mornings and felt a connection between the altar display and the pastor's sermon?
- Have the Scripture readings come to life with images arranged on the altar to bring you into a worshipful state of mind?
- Would you like to use your own creativity designing an altar for the Sanctuary?
- Would you like to help prepare the Sanctuary for Christmas, Easter and other special occasions?

Volunteering on the Worship Committee is a very meaningful experience, and the creative work we do is truly appreciated by everyone at St. Mark's. **Training is available and we have many props to aid in altar design.** Creating a worshipful space is our gift to St. Mark's! If interested, please contact the

What Does the Endowment Committee Mean to You?

Many St. Mark's members are not aware of the Endowment Committee and what we do. In an effort to change this, we will be presenting this question to various members: What does the Endowment Committee mean to you?

I posed this question to Bob Sogn, who is a member of the Trustees Committee and the Endowment Committee. As a member of the Trustees Committee, he stated the Endowment Committee helped provide funds for the necessary capital projects that were not part of the budget. In the past, the committee has provided some of St. Mark's youth with funding to complete individual projects that enhanced the St. Mark's facilities. Additionally, the Endowment Fund provides members with the opportunity to donate or leave some of their estate to St. Mark's for future improvements and/or projects. – *Renee Carrasco, Chair*

church office at 520-297-2062 or info@umcstmarks.org.

The new principal at Nash Elementary has told us (the **Nash Neighbors Committee**) there is a real need for more volunteers to help teachers in classrooms at the school. Due to COVID, there is a shortage of teachers as well as our own



usual volunteers. If you think you could help one morning a week at the school, please contact Sue Pierce at rsptuc@comcast.net right away. Staff and students wear masks, and social distancing is done whenever possible. Amphitheater Public Schools requires each volunteer be fingerprinted, and Sue can help you get started on this process, which now takes about four weeks to complete. Thank you for your prayerful consideration for this rewarding ministry to children.

In a few short months, the **Animal Ministry Team** of St. Mark's will be 10 years old. Throughout that time, dozens of volunteers who love animals have found numerous ways to support pets, shelter animals, wildlife and even livestock, both locally and nationally – through



work projects, financial and supply donations, educational speakers and films and more. Not only have we sponsored an annual Blessing of the Animals (we just had one Oct. 3!) and an annual Pet Memorial Service, but we've also been part of many animal events and activities throughout the Tucson community, "taking church out into the world." Would you like to join us?

For the past decade, Sandi Heilman has been the steering force of this important ministry, but she is now stepping out of the leadership position. Jan Walker, a longtime active member of the team, has agreed to continue the AMT by taking on the leadership role. We're grateful for her willingness to serve God, St. Mark's and the animals in this way!

If you are interested in participating in the AMT in any role, please email animalministry@umcstmarks.org to volunteer and/or ask questions. Many thanks (along with some woofs and meows)!

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." Or you can register at the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board in the courtyard on Sundays.

Wednesday Morning Study Group

10-11:30 a.m. Oct. 20-Nov. 24, room 17/18 and Zoom

A six-week study on **Chaos & the Kingdom** by Nathanael Vissia & Michael T. Bush (2015). The class will get to join a conversation with one of the book authors, the Rev. Michael Bush, at one of the sessions.

The various interpretations of Biblical stories can lead to disagreements, frustrations, confusion and, well, chaos. A group can strong-arm its singular interpretation of these stories over those they most influence and the good news Jesus proclaimed can be leveraged by self-serving entities out to fulfill their agendas. It is no wonder living our lives following Jesus can sometimes be perplexing and full of turmoil. This study uses and encourages dialogue to help clear the chaos to better hear the good news.

Books are available at bookstores or through various online vendors. *Class Facilitator: Marcia Rostad*

Open Minds Book Group

9-10:30 a.m. Oct. 22 via Zoom: **Salvage the Bones**, by Jesmyn

Ward (2011). Join us to share your reflections on this timely novel depicting the impact of a deadly hurricane on poor families in the rural South. It introduces us to a poor family living among chickens and abandoned cars on the coast of rural Mississippi in August 2005. Over 12 days, we are immersed in the world of 15-year-old Esch, a world in which birth and death aren't far apart and the only safety net is that which

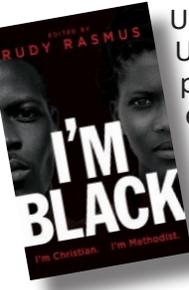
Esch and her brothers create for each other. The novel's power comes from dread of an approaching storm and resilience in the face of life-changing events: a vicious dog fight and the monstrous Hurricane Katrina. Contact one of the co-leaders for the Zoom link (see the church directory).

The paperback is available from Amazon (\$9.59) or on Kindle (\$8.30) and from Barnes & Noble. *Led by Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban.*

AN ADVENT TEASER: Watch for more information on our churchwide Advent study, **Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes**, by Cynthia M. Campbell. We hope to have several small-group venues; you can even form a small group of your own if you'd like. More details in the November Messenger. A limited number of books will be available on Sundays by the ASG Board beginning Oct. 31. Or you can purchase your own from a bookstore or online vendor.

Discipleship Living

I'm Black, I'm Christian, I'm Methodist, 6:30-8 p.m. Mondays Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22 via Zoom. Ten personal narratives reveal the shared and distinct struggles of being Black in the United Methodist Church. All 10 authors are United Methodist ministers who tell of their personal struggles in facing historic and modern racism. The narratives are from people and leaders whose lives are tangible demonstrations of the power of a divine purpose and evidence of what grace really means in face of hardship, disappointment and determination. Each of the journeys intersect because of three central elements that are the focus of this book. We're Black. We're Christians. We're Methodists. Each starts with the fact, "I'm Black," but to resolve the conflict of being Christian and Methodist means confronting aspects of White theology, White supremacy and White racism to ground an oppositional experience toward domination over four centuries in America.



A video section of this study will be incorporated into the book's narrative. We will complete the content in three weeks, but a fourth week is scheduled for general discussion to process what participants have experienced during the presentations.

The book is available by several website vendors. Available in paperback and as an e-book. *Lead facilitator is Judy Boroto.*

Sharing/Family Life

9:30 a.m. Sundays in rooms 17/18 or via Zoom.

No class Oct. 31, a fifth Sunday.

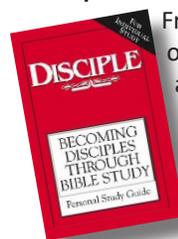
We have three more weeks for the book/video study on **Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today**, by Adam Hamilton. Jesus did not see these commandments as onerous burdens, but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life. It is not too late to be involved in this study!

On Nov. 7 the class will begin in a churchwide study of **I'm Black, I'm Christian, I'm Methodist**, edited by Rudy Rasmus. (See content description above.) There is a book that accompanies the videos, but it is optional for our class study, which will run for three weeks only. We'd love to welcome you to our class, whether just for this study or long term.

To learn more about the class or to get the Zoom link, email the co-leaders Terry Majewski at (see church directory) or Rick Farnsworth at (see church directory). Note that for the time being, are continuing with a 9:30 a.m. start time, but we may need to adjust this depending on the average length of the 8:30 a.m. worship service.

Disciple Bible Study: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

From the beginnings of the Jewish faith; through their Exodus and Exile and Reconstruction; to the life of Jesus and the Apostles and the beginnings of the Christian faith and church -- this study challenges us, guides us, takes us to new depths and heights in our faith. **COMING IN JANUARY 2022.** More details to come. Sign up online now to express your interest.



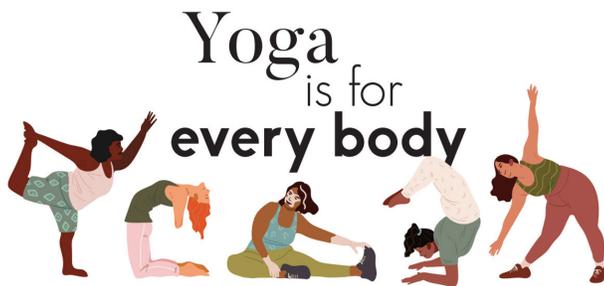
Just Breathe Yoga is Back!

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." Just Breathe, inspired by Holy Yoga™, provides an opportunity for fellowship with others while stretching, practicing controlled breathing techniques and reflecting on Scriptures while building flexibility and strength.

We have the Fellowship Hall reserved for 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. We will also offer this via Zoom both days; the Zoom "room" will open at 10:15 a.m.

The suggested donation is \$5 per class. This cost covers instructor pay, purchase of materials, Holy Yoga™ scholarships and charitable donations to other ministries. There is also a one-time waiver to sign before joining.

If you are interested in trying a gentle, Scripture-based yoga practice, please email tricia@umcstmarks.org for the Zoom link, waiver or more information.



Annual Conference UMW Celebration

The Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women are hosting an Annual Celebration, "Come Along, Follow and Hold Fast," on Saturday, Oct. 9. Many St. Mark's UMW members are participating, but **you don't have to be in UMW** to do so.



The celebration speaker is Gloria Kimbwa. Gloria is a first-generation American born of Congolese parents who immigrated to California. Gloria is a global leader on diversity, inclusion and belonging who spends much of her time speaking at UN events, mentoring at hackathons, and leading social justice causes. She believes true social justice can be accomplished only by doing the work in your heart, your home and your community.

The celebration is 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom, with a lunch break. Registration is \$12 per person and is due by noon Wednesday, Oct. 6. Go to <https://dscumc.org/event/umw-annual-celebration/> for more information and to register. NOTE: Some consideration is being given to gathering in person locally (at St. Mark's) for a watch party during the celebration. Please let St. Mark's UMW Secretary Kay Hayworth (see church directory) know if you'd like the "watch party" option.

Annual Church Conference



Our Annual Church Conference will be held **at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3** in the Fellowship Hall. Our district superintendent, Rev. Matt Ashley, will lead us in the annual business meeting. All are welcome to attend; church members may vote. Save the date!

We are pleased to announce we have hired Rob Cavalier to be our new Technology Coordinator. Some of you may already know Rob. He did the sound and tech set up for the Dove Mountain campus before COVID started. Rob has a degree in sound design and is very familiar with all the technology we now use in worship. He is a very friendly guy, so if you see a new face in the sound booth, it is probably Rob. Please feel free to introduce yourself and welcome him into the St. Mark's community.

UMW 'Bakeless' Bake Sale!

St. Mark's United Methodist Women Fundraiser

"THE BAKELESS BAKE SALE"

A bit of news we have today,
A BAKELESS BAKE SALE is under way!

In these busy days, now who would bake
Pies or cookies or even cake?



You'd be surprised if you counted the cost
Of material, heat and time you've lost!
Cooking for sale is extra work,
Yet nobody really wishes to shirk.

So we've thought of a plan that's truly grand,
And feel quite sure you'll understand.
Decide what you'll bake,
Maybe pies, cookies or even a cake.

Count the cost of ingredients, plus time to make.
Or donate what you would pay to buy at our bake sale.
Place the "DOUGH" in an envelope you see,
Label it Pie, Cookies or Cake, and mail it to me.

Without fuss or bother you've done your part!
We're sure you will give with a willing heart.

Make check payable to: St. Mark's United Methodist Women and

**Mail to: Alice Brown
(see church directory)**

**Hurry Sale Ends Oct. 20
MONEY RAISED FUNDS OUR MISSIONS**



National Hispanic (Latin) Heritage Month

Sept. 15 - Oct. 15

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under Pres. Lyndon Johnson and expanded under Pres. Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on Sept. 15 and ending Oct. 15. It became law Aug. 17, 1988.

Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the commemoration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, which all declared independence in 1821. In addition, Mexico, Chile and Belize celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16, Sept. 18, and Sept. 21, respectively. The impact of the Spanish conquest is vast and complex. Tucsonans who descend from early Spanish settlers are considered Mexican-Americans because their ancestry is part European and part Native American.

Which leads to a need to clarify the different names used for those of multiple ethnicities: In English, Hispanic means "Spanish speaking," but the Spanish equivalent (Hispano/a) is only used when talking about people who are from Spain. From the New World perspective, the Spanish were brutal colonizers who were eventually kicked out when people rose up for their independence. Referring to the descendants of colonized people by the name of their colonizers ignores the aspects of who they are and the culture they have that exists apart from who colonized them. We are calling people by the name of their former oppressors when we refer to people as Hispanic. What we clearly mean is that their ethnic and cultural origins lie in the Caribbean, the Southwestern United States, or south of the U.S. border or in Central and South America, but that is not what we are saying.

The word Latin is a more inclusive and accurate alternative.

The word Latin takes away the gender dynamic, "Latino/a," that is prevalent in the Spanish language while giving a nod to being culturally distinct from the Spanish at the same time. Using the word Latin also helps avoid referring to people from the countries in Central and South America as Mexican by majority-white populations.

From America's earliest days, Americans of Latin descent have played a prominent and important role in our national heritage, and these Americans continue to embody the pioneering spirit of America today. Demonstrating a steadfast commitment to faith, family, and hard work, Americans of Latin descent lift up our communities and our economy as entrepreneurs, executives, and small-business owners and make contributions in areas such as science, art, music, politics, academia, government, and sports. In fact, Latin-owned small businesses are the fastest-growing businesses in America, starting at a pace 15 times the national average over the last decade. Americans of Latin descent own more than 3 million American businesses and serve with honor in all branches of the armed forces, continuing a strong legacy of dedication to our country. The Medal of Honor has been awarded to 60 Americans of Latin descent.

Here's a bit of local history from a newspaper essay written by Amy Hartmann-Gordon, director of the Presidio Museum, and our own Terry Majewski, who chairs the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission: Tucson's foundation date is Aug. 15, the date that Hugo O'Conor, a Spanish soldier, wrote a decree that the Spanish army would build the Presidio San Agustin del Tucson on the east side of the Santa Cruz River (near "A" Mountain). They reminded us, however, that people have lived here for thousands of years, and the Tucson basin is known as the longest continuously inhabited valley in North America. (Arizona Daily Star, Aug. 18, 2021)

Submitted by Judy Boroto, chair of Adult Spiritual Growth committee and member of Racial Equity Task Force
Clarification of the terms "Hispanic" and "Latin" come from Rev. Stuart Salvatierra



Learn About St. Mark's Membership!

Have you been thinking about membership at St. Mark's and wondering how to get more information and then join? On Sunday, Oct. 31, Pastor Lynn and Tricia Chester (administrative assistant for hospitality) will lead a Membership 101 class via Zoom. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about St. Mark's – our priorities and plans, as well as history and United Methodist beliefs. Please register on the website – <https://umcstmarks.org>, under "Announcements" or "Classes," where you'll find a tab for Membership 101. If you have questions, leave a message at 520-297-2062 and you will be contacted.



Missions Committee Update

Thanks to everyone from our congregation who participated in the recent 9/11 Day of Service. Several of our members were part of the HungerWalk sponsored by the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona to raise awareness about hunger and food insecurity in our community as well as raise money for the food bank. Others donated to the Diapers and Wipes Drive sponsored by Interfaith Community Services. Many ICS Food Bank clients need diapers and wipes and thanks to the 9/11 donations received, diapers in all sizes as well as wipes became available there. Well done!

John Yost, Missions Committee Chair

Ride for Tu Nidito

Tu Nidito is one of the great mission partners to St. Mark's. This wonderful organization provides bereavement services to children, teens, young adults and families, providing comfort, support and hope while they are grieving the diagnosis of a serious medical condition or the death of a loved one.

Tu Nidito Children and Family Services invites members of St. Mark's to join its team of Ride for a Child Ambassadors, a dedicated group of community members raising awareness and funds to help Southern Arizona's grieving children and their families. This meaningful fundraising and awareness campaign raises critical funds to support Tu Nidito's programs for grieving children. Fundraising efforts begin this fall and will wrap up in mid-November when we'll come together to take a group ride on the Loop in celebration of Tu Nidito and in honor of Children's Grief Awareness Day.



Cyclists of any age or ability are invited to register! For more information please visit <https://tunidito.org/2021/05/10/ride-for-a-child/> or email dana@tunidito.org.

ICS Food Bank Collection Update

So far this year, our amazing St. Mark's faith community has donated almost 18,000 lb. of food to the northwest food bank at Interfaith Community Services! We are doing great work. With three months left in 2021, we are on pace to donate between 20,000 and 25,000 lb. of food this year. Let's see how close to 25,000 lb. we can get. All donations big or small are appreciated and make a difference. You can bring your donations between 10-11 a.m. any Tuesday or Saturday morning in the church's north parking lot, or if that is not convenient, you can drop off donations at the church office during normal business hours. See the "Giving" page on the St. Mark's website for a list of most-needed food items. Thank you so much for your help!

Sign Up to Serve at Primavera

After a long absence due to COVID-19, we are going to begin serving meals at Primavera again starting in January. The Primavera Foundation provides safe, clean, temporary housing options for those in need in our community. St. Mark's has been providing meals at the shelter on the second and fifth Saturdays each month for several years. The clients highly appreciate a warm, quality, home-cooked meal. We need groups or individuals to sign up for one of the upcoming dates. The available dates for the first few months are:



PRIMAVERA

Jan. 8 and 29, Feb. 12, March 12, and April 9 and 30. Your group would be responsible for buying the food, preparing it at St. Mark's on your designated date, transporting the food to Primavera, serving the meal, and cleaning up after. This entire process should involve only a few hours. To help, we have a recipe book available that others have used in the past to help in buying food and preparing the meals. Initially, we can expect to serve 50-70 guests. Please respond to missions@umcstmarks.org or visit our SignUp Genius link at <https://tinyurl.com/PrimaveraSpring2022> to sign up your group or to ask any questions you may have. Thanks for your support.

Thank You for TIHAN Support Collections continue in October

THANK YOU SO MUCH for your contributions to the Thank-giving Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network CarePackages!! We've made a significant dent in the number of personal care items and cleaning products we need to collect to ensure no one is left out. We are still in need of toilet paper, facial tissues and **especially dish detergent**.

We can also use Bingo prize items such as gift cards to Walmart, Target, etc.; household items such as pots and pans; toilet cleaner and brushes; dish cloths for drying as well as washing; aluminum foil and plastic food bags – in short, anything we use on a regular basis but is not affordable to many of TIHAN's CarePartners.

Are you in the majority or minority? Gleaned from an online survey and reported in the September 2021 "POZ" magazine: Only 48% of Americans felt knowledgeable about HIV in general. Stay tuned to the Missions page of this newsletter to learn how you can help fight this epidemic and learn more about people living with HIV. And THANKS AGAIN for caring.



Youth Ministry

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



Events Calendar

Middle and High School Students

Sunday, Oct. 10	National Dessert Day
Sunday, Oct. 17	Fall Break! – NO YOUTH
Sunday, Oct. 24	4-6 p.m. Spooky Escape Room
Sunday, Oct. 31	Halloween – NO YOUTH
Sunday, Nov. 7	4-6 p.m. Underground Church



Pumpkin Time is Here!!

It's almost pumpkin time!! Woohoo!! This year, I think almost all of you will have fall break during pumpkin patch, which is AWESOME! It means more time for you to sell pumpkins! Did you know that our pumpkin patch helps fund not only our amazing summer mission experiences, but also helps us to do all of our awesome events throughout the year? The orange beauties help pay for retreats, activities and more! It's also super fun to sell, especially if you sign up with friends! Scan the QR code to sign up, or go to the church website and look under "Announcements" on the home page!



Need Service Hours?

Need service hours for NJHS, NHS, Web, or any other club? Guess what? I can help! If you volunteer at the pumpkin patch (unloading AND selling!), I can sign for hours! We also occasionally have "Service Sundays" at Youth Group (our next one is Dec. 12), where you will get 2 hours for participating. Questions? See Rachel.

SSP Update



This summer, Sierra Service Project will be IN PERSON! We won't find out which week or site we get until early November, but students in grades 8-12 are able to sign up now! If you have any questions, please let Rachel know.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

National Dessert Day

There is a day for everything, isn't there!? This one just might be my favorite. Join us Oct. 10 to celebrate National Dessert Day with sweet treats and awesome games.

National Dessert Day



Fall Break

Rest is so important for all of our bodies. We are lucky that so many school districts here in Tucson acknowledge that and give us a fall break! Oct. 17 either is your last day of fall break (hurry and finish that assignment you forgot!) or your first day (ahhhh, time to relax!), so we will take the night off from youth group. Don't worry, though, you don't have to miss me too much! There is plenty of opportunity to sell pumpkins over your break!



No Youth Group 10/17
Have a wonderful FALL
BREAK with your families!

Spooky Escape Room

On Oct. 24, see if you can figure your way out of a spoooooooky escape room here on campus! You will work together to solve the clues, and there just might be prizes. Spooky prizes, most likely. Don't worry, Rachel doesn't actually like scary things, so nothing will go beyond silly and spooky!



Halloween

Have a fun and safe Halloween with your families! Do you have any fun Halloween traditions? Send in your super spooky traditions! At Rachel's house, her family makes creepy food for dinner, and has a block party in the cul-de-sac. There is no youth that night, so be sure to send in your pictures to rachel@umcstmarks.org!



October Birthdays

- Oct. 2—*Moses Halaufia*
- Oct. 11—*Zachary Martin*
- Oct. 12—*Ken Martin (Faith Coach)*
- Oct. 23—*Ashley Drake*
- Oct. 27—*Caroline McComb*



Youth news continued on page 8

Youth Ministry

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



UNDERGROUND CHURCH



UNDERGROUND CHURCH

With the weather cooling down, we can get back to some of our outdoor games! Join us on Nov. 7 for an exciting game of Underground Church! Never played? Don't worry, you will catch on so fast. It's a fun game, and even more fun with friends. Bring a friend, and wear your running shoes!

CONFIRMATION

Our confirmation class is back to meeting in person this year! Here at St. Mark's, confirmation class is open to students in grades 8-12, who have not yet been confirmed. This year, six students are meeting with Rachel weekly until May, when they will have the opportunity to be confirmed.



MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

Last month, our youth group met with youth from around the South District. They formed three groups and had to rise up



to meet challenges together – everything from singing loudly in the park, to a 15-second hula hoop and everything in between! We talked about how God helps us all rise up to the challenges we meet every day. This was the first of our year-long events that all tie into the district youth theme of "We Rise, We Stand Up, We Defy." It was a really fun day

of challenges, games and fellowship. Keep an eye out for information about our next district event, coming Nov. 11.

Who Are Our Fans?

In a recent post on the Wesley Bros blog, the author was explaining that youth ministry isn't always just for the youth. Part of our job in youth ministry is convincing adults that they have something to contribute, too!

I hear it all the time, that the different generations just don't see eye to eye. That the kids must love me because I can play dodgeball with them (spoiler – they love that **only** because it is so easy to get me out, and their team gets a leg up!), or I make goofy videos with them (which they enjoy making fun of).

But there is so much more than that to being there for our youth! Author and youth pastor Chap Clark said "... every kid needs five adult fans ... who will say, 'I'm going to love that kid until they are fully walking as an adult member of this congregation.'" Many of us aren't able to teach youth Sun-



Meet our new PreTeen coordinator!

Spencer Noble-Rose grew up in Yuma, AZ before attending Azusa Pacific University in California to study Christian Ministry. In March of 2021, she and her husband, Jack, moved to Tucson from Orange County, Calif. They are excited to join the St. Mark's community and are expecting their first child in January. Spencer's favorite color is green, her favorite vegetable is brussels sprouts and her favorite Bible verse is Ephesians 2:10.



If you are in fourth or fifth grades, we invite you to come meet Spencer and have a blast at Pre-Teen on Sundays from 4-6 p.m.! You don't want to miss all the fun she has planned!

A Word from Children's Ministry

Fall is in the air and Sunday School at St. Mark's for children in preschool through sixth grade is in full swing. Last Sunday as part of Christian Education Sunday, our fabulous third-graders received Bibles. The Sunday School teachers are enjoying having the kids attend in person every week at 10 a.m. and are busy planning topics and activities for the month. During October, the Sunday School classes are focusing on Scripture from Genesis with a brief tie-in to Pastor Lynn's sermons each week. Be on the lookout in the Sunday Bulletin as well as Pastor Lynn's weekly email for more information regarding the fall/Halloween outdoor movie event in the church parking lot! (It's mentioned on the cover of this Messenger!) See you at Sunday School!!

day School or be a Faith Coach on Sunday evenings. But each and every one of us can truly be these kids' fans! When you help out by selling pumpkins in the pumpkin patch, the kids see you. When you come buy the pumpkins, they see you. They feel your prayers. When they share in church that they have accomplished something, and you congratulate them, they hear you!

We are so blessed here at St. Mark's to have so many fans of our amazing youth! Thank you for your help in fundraisers; thank you for your prayers; and thank you for being their fans! The youth (and !!) truly appreciate you.

– Rachel Mosher, Youth and Common Grounds Coordinator

Interested in the article? You can read it at <https://www.wesleybros.com/wesbros/attention-span/>

The New St. Mark's Mobile Giving App is Here!

St. Mark's is excited to announce that we have an upgraded mobile app! Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile. This new mobile app has replaced GivePlus Mobile. With Vanco Mobile, you can send one-time donations or set recurring gifts.

How do you download Vanco Mobile? It's easy! Head over to the App Store or Google Play to download Vanco Mobile for free. **Be sure to download this app soon, as GivePlus Mobile ended as of Sept. 30.**



To give using Vanco Mobile, follow these six easy steps:

1. Search for our church by name "St. Mark's United Methodist Church" or enter Code SCD4FH.
2. Click on Giving.
3. Select your gift amount, fund and frequency.
4. Enter your payment method. (You can save this information for future use!)
5. Choose whether you want to cover processing fees.
6. Click **Submit** to complete your donation.

Please contact the church office if you have any questions: 520-297-2062 or info@umcstmarks.org.
- St. Mark's Finance Committee

St. Mark's Financial Report

The St. Mark's financial results through August are shown below:

	Actual	Budget	Plus/Minus
Income	\$748,267	\$763,158	\$ (14,891)
Expense	661,633	705,473	(43,840)
Net Income	\$ 86,634	\$ 57,685	\$ 28,949

The financial results for August indicated a small loss of \$243. Revenue was \$81,476 while expenses were \$81,719. Hopefully, this small loss reflects that we are almost through the summer months. With a surplus of \$86,634, St Mark's is still in a good financial position, but we hope that no large, unforeseen expenses arise. If they do, there is approximately \$350,000 in the Unrestricted Fund. As always, thank you for your contributions. We appreciate your continued support.

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

Christmas Joy for Nash Families

The annual collection of gift cards by the Nash Neighbors Committee will once again happen during the first half of November. Continuing our support of families at Nash Elementary School is a recognition that many families struggle with job and food insecurity and of the opportunity we have to provide some means to ensure their children may find joy at Christmas. We will collect \$25 gift cards from Walmart and Target to present to the new Nash principal, Dr. Laura Esquibel. She and the school counselor will make sure the cards are given to those families who need them most.

Our St. Mark's family is blessed in so many ways, and your generous hearts always respond to share Christ's love in the world. And so, we ask you to share in this collection of gift cards generously. Despite the shutdown in 2020, we collected over \$1,000 more than in 2019, for a total of \$6,300. In 2021, we believe we can top that 2020 amount – think of the amazing opportunity to brighten a child's Christmas!



Here are the ways you can donate the Target or Walmart \$25 gift cards – or personal checks for \$25 or more in early November. Please identify checks for Nash Christmas Gift Cards.

Online giving – If you currently make your offerings online to St. Mark's, you can add an amount of \$25 or more, designated for Nash Christmas Gift Cards.

Sunday opportunities – look for the Nash Neighbors table between church services on Nov. 14 and 21 to drop off cards or

checks.

Mail a check (no actual cards, please) to the church office, marked clearly for Nash Christmas Gift Cards.

Drive-through collections in the north parking lot on following dates:

- 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays, Nov. 9 and 16
- 10-11 a.m. Saturdays, Nov. 13 and 20

Thank you in advance for your generosity that will truly bless many Nash families this Christmas.

PRAYER CORNER

We are a praying community at St. Mark's. You may submit prayer requests by email to prayerchain@umcstmarks.org or on our website under "Resources" then "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

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to:

- The family and friends of Georgia Elizabeth Watson, who died Aug. 26. Her family held a memorial service Sept. 4 in Missouri. To send condolences, visit this link: <https://www.hudsonrimerfh.com/obituary/georgia-watson>.
- The Dagleish/Morales family upon the death of Liz's sister-in-law, Cathy Dagleish, who died of COVID-19 Sept. 15. We also pray for Liz's brother, John Dagleish, who was in ICU in California with COVID-19.
- The family and friends of longtime church member Delores Cole, who died Sept. 16. Her family appreciates your prayers as they prepare for a service and for Delores's final burial beside her husband here at our memorial garden. We give thanks to God for her life and for her impact on this church and the world.
- The family of Bill Morrison, who died Sept. 23 in Pennsylvania. Please pray for his family here: Billy, Juliee, Matthew and Gabby Morrison, and Joyce Flick.



St. Mark's UMC
1431 W. Magee Road
Tucson, AZ 85704
(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
8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Livestreamed
10 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

Dear Church Family...

Dear St. Mark's Church,
You are kind! Thank you for all the supplies! You are the best! We love you!
Love, Mrs. Gates' class (and hand signed in multiple colors by 21 Nash Elementary students)

Our family would like to express our appreciation and thanks for all the cards, prayers and positive thoughts sent our way with the passing of my father. We are blessed to be part of the St. Mark's community.
Tom and Liz Ellis

Thank you for your prayers, cards and phone calls since we moved Jim to a memory care place Aug. 10. ... Please continue to keep him in your prayers for comfort and peace. I still feel sad, but with God's help, I am adjusting to our new way of living. We are so blessed to have such a caring church family.
Karen Allison



Altar Flowers

One of the ways our congregation serves the church is to provide altar flowers for Sunday worship. This year, there are still some openings for altar flowers. If you wish to dedicate flowers for one or more Sundays, simply sign up on the board in the Sanctuary narthex. Please write your name and phone number next to the week(s) you wish to donate flowers. It is a great way to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and graduations or to honor loved ones.

Calendar Notes

Wednesday, Oct. 6

10 a.m. Morning Study Group, Rm 17/18
Noon BULLETIN DEADLINE
6:15 p.m. Celebration Singers Rehearsal, Choir Room
6:30 p.m. Soul Station midweek worship, Zoom
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, Oct. 7

9 a.m. Quilters, Rm 17/18
6 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Friday, Oct. 8

9 a.m. Heartworks, Rm 17/18
10:30 a.m. Holy Yoga, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, Oct. 9

TBA PUMPKINS ARRIVE, S. parking lot

10 a.m. Food donation collection, N. parking lot

Sunday, Oct. 10

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Pumpkin Patch
8:30 a.m. Traditional worship service, Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Sharing/Family Life, Rm 17/18 and Zoom
10 a.m. Online Service, website and YouTube
10 a.m. Traditional worship service, Sanctuary
10 a.m. The Gathering modern service, Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. Children and Youth Sunday School
11:15 a.m. Seekers, Zoom

Monday, Oct. 11

Noon - 6 p.m. Pumpkin Patch
6 p.m. Bells of St. Mark's Rehearsal, Sanctuary

October prayer requests

The St. Mark's Prayer Ministry Team provides information so you can pray for people and activities happening in and around church during the month. The monthly Prayer Requests are located on the church website under the "Ministries" tab, then "Congregational Care." Or if you are reading this online, follow this link:

https://umcstmarks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/monthlyprayerlist_web1021.pdf

† Pray God's blessing and help as our Sunday morning worship times and format change and expand to traditional service at 8:30 and 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, modern service at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and online service at 10 a.m. via our website or YouTube.

† Pray God's blessings for all St. Mark's third graders who received Bibles on Christian Education Sunday as part of regular worship Oct. 3.

† Offer thanks for the return of the Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, Oct. 3 on the labyrinth of the Meditation Garden.

† Pray God's blessings for the Soul Station midweek service at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays via Zoom. If you're new to Soul Station, contact the church office at 520-297-2062 or email info@umcstmarks.org for the link to connect.

† Pray for the successful Youth Pumpkin Patch fundraiser in October. Church members and friends are invited to help unload pumpkins Saturday, Oct. 9 – many hands make a big job easier! Pray there will be adult volunteers available during the afternoons, and youth/parents to sell pumpkins after school and on the weekends. Pumpkin sale proceeds will be used for the youth Sierra Service Project mission trip next summer.

† Pray God's blessings and guidance for the St. Mark's 2022 Stewardship Campaign, "Come and See..." Pray for good participation and response to the campaign in support of our church ministries and operation.

† Continue prayers for all students, teachers and school ad-

ministrators who are back at school – including the St. Mark's Early Childhood Center. Pray God's safety, good health and protection in the classrooms, and in all school activities and events.

† Pray God's healing for St. Mark's members, our families and friends who have had recent surgeries, or are receiving medical treatments, and/or have been in the hospital. Pray also for those who are sick, homebound or recovering at home or in rehab facilities.

† Pray God's healing power will surround all those with COVID-19 and its variants. Pray for the health, safety and protection of all nurses, doctors and other health-care workers and first responders as the number of COVID cases begins to level off once more.

† Give thanks for our ongoing collection of non-perishable food items for the Interfaith Community Services food bank from 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays and Saturdays in the north parking lot.

† Give thanks for the contributions of people in the US whose ancestry can be traced back to Spain, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Give thanks for those who are providing compassionate care to migrants at the border and to those arriving from Afghanistan. Pray that God will bring peace and justice for all people.

† South District Superintendent Rev. Matt Ashley asks us to pray for other church pastors and their ministries each month. The request for October is for Vista de la Montana, Tucson; Good Shepherd UMC, Kearny; and Willcox UMC, Willcox.

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

To Everything, A Season

Each time the season changes, I begin singing that song from the Byrds. You know it – it’s based on familiar words from Ecclesiastes. “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, NIV) As summer closes, the time for some things is over and we make way for other things. The time for swimming may be coming to a close. The time for huddling indoors with the AC blowing on me is coming to a close. The time for oven mitts on the steering wheels is coming to a close. (No, I don’t actually do that, but you can relate!)

In its place, we have October. This is the time we celebrate the birthday of our oldest (how can he be 15?!?). It’s the time for Fall Break, and our family will travel to Florida to see my family for the first time since my grandmother’s funeral in March 2019. It’s the time the desert cools enough that I can break out my tall boots and maybe even a light sweater for the cool mornings. It’s the time for the Pumpkin Patch and pumpkin-spiced everything. I like October.

I’ve always known that fall is the time for things to begin the dying process. Summer gardens cease to produce. Leaves begin to fall. Bugs go away. But this year, in this desert, I’m trying something new. I planted a garden. We made a raised bed with pavers and good dirt. I’ve planted cabbage and herbs and green beans and cucumbers. I don’t know what

I’m going to get out of them. I wonder if I’m going against nature and the Byrds as I try to make life emerge in the midst of the season of death. I know, I know, the desert has its own time, and we need to embrace that! But will the cucumbers produce or will they just be fun to watch grow? I’ll keep you posted!

This month, I encourage you to embrace the change of season. Spend some time reflecting on what has changed in these last few months. Reflect on what you want to change for this next season of your life. “To everything there is a season.” Maybe you want to coax new life out of something—a hobby you put on hold? A friendship you have neglected? Maybe you need to acknowledge the death of something—a hobby you really don’t like anymore? Some possession that has become clutter? A friend who is toxic? Maybe you need to spend some time reflecting on being silent and speaking—do you need to speak up more? Or be silent more? I invite you to take advantage of this time and embrace the change of season. Maybe we will all find that fall is a great season to embrace!

See you soon,
Pastor Lynn

