

# Messenger

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

St. Mark's  
United Methodist

## 'Pilgrimage to Magdalena': An Introduction and Invitation!

by Rev. Jerry Haas

I've now lived in Arizona 30 years, but it was only in the last five or six that I learned about the pilgrimage to Magdalena. Perhaps it's something new for you as well! Whatever your background knowledge is, I invite you to come watch a 30-minute documentary I helped to create, at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17 in the Sanctuary.

The term "pilgrimage" refers to a religious tradition of making a journey to a sacred site. In this case, the site is in Magdalena, Sonora, Mexico, a town about 60 miles south of Nogales. The people who make this journey come from a variety of cultural ethnicities: Mexican, Hispanic American, Tohono O'odham, Yaqui, Mayo, and Anglo American. One reason you'll want to watch the documentary is to gain some insight into our neighbors here in Southern Arizona, Hispanics and Indigenous we might not otherwise get to know.

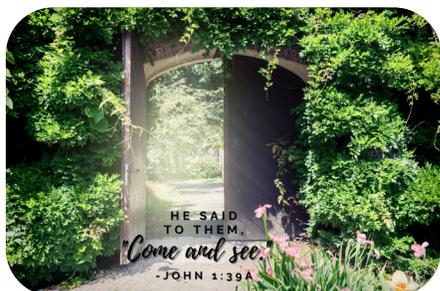
Magdalena is significant because it was here in 1711 that Padre Kino died at age 65. Kino was a Jesuit priest who introduced Christianity to the region, founding some 21 missions including San Xavier del Bac, just south of Tucson. Kino was inspired by Francisco Xavier, co-founder of the Jesuit order and one of the first Catholic missionaries. Kino left a statue of St. Xavier in Magdalena, and now it is honored by the pilgrims who make their way to the special chapel erected to honor him.

While the pilgrimage to Magdalena may strike you as a decidedly Catholic tradition, it resonates with people from many different religious traditions and no tradition at all. I think that's because many people today are looking for something to hold on to, something older and deeper than the current news cycle or pop psychology fad. Perhaps some of you have been on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land or to John Wesley's England and know how valuable those experiences are. And perhaps all of us have a bit of an "itch" to venture forth in hopes of catching a glimpse of the Elusive Presence, the Amazing God who will never be tamed. Perhaps you'll get a bit of that "itch" when you watch this documentary with me.

*Jerry Haas was senior pastor at St. Mark's from 1984-1997. He is co-producer of this documentary, which recently received an award from Religion Today's film festival and will soon be featured at the American Academy of Religion Conference in San Antonio, Texas.*

This presentation is jointly sponsored by the Adult Spiritual Growth and Church & Society committees. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/pilgrimagetomagdalena> to register. Seating is limited and masks are required. Please reserve your spot early!

## 2022 Commitment Sunday is Nov. 14; Ministries Fair is Nov. 7



The 2022 Stewardship Campaign, **Come and See**, is nearing its end. "Church is not simply supposed to be the place to which we head off on Sunday morning. It is supposed to be the community that makes

possible our obedience to the impossible calling of Jesus." – *The Upper Room* devotional, Oct. 10, 2021. We hope you have enjoyed the videos witnessing to God and to St. Mark's in our lives through prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Commitment Sunday is Nov. 14. But before then, on Nov. 7 (All Saints' Sunday), representatives from a number of committees will be in the courtyard to answer questions about service opportunities at St. Mark's. In addition to Finance/Stewardship, we have scheduled Adult Spiritual

Continued on next page

**Continued from page 1:** Growth, Youth Ministries, the St. Mark's Membership Care Committee, the St. Mark's Congregational Care Team, Church & Society, Church Growth & Hospitality, and Missions to be there. Maybe we will even have coffee available.

We hope you have been inspired to answer the invitation to "Come and See" what happens when you join in community with other St. Mark's members to do God's work.

*Bill Zermuehlen, Finance Chair*

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service



Join your church family for our annual Thanksgiving Service at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24. This service will be available as a livestream or in person in the Sanctuary. Join us as we give thanks to God with music, prayer, and community. We will not be offering our annual Thanksgiving dinner, but we encourage you to invite others you know will be alone to join you at your table for the day!

## WORLD THANK OFFERING

The St. Mark's United Methodist Women will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, in rooms 17/18 and via Zoom for our annual World Thank Offering and Pledge Service program. Some of us plan to gather in person for fellowship beginning at 9:30 a.m. We will wear masks and maintain social distance, and we will not have refreshments.

The World Thank Offering is one of UMW's five channels of undesignated Mission Giving. Mission Giving is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used for missions and advocacy in the United States and around the world.



The World Thank Offering, giving freely and abundantly in response to God's goodness, has been the way of life for United Methodist Women for almost 150 years.

All women are invited. You do not have to be a member of St.

Mark's United Methodist Women or St. Mark's United Methodist Church or any church to attend. The Zoom link will be emailed to all members on or before Friday, Nov. 5. Contact UMW secretary Kay Hayworth (see church directory) if you're new or if you want to make sure she has your email address. Or call the church office at 520-297-2062.



## Will You Be Our Fan?

Last month, on the youth page, I wrote an article about how each of our youth need five fans. Being a fan of our youth is such an amazing support for our young people! Being a fan of the St. Mark's Youth Group doesn't mean you need to come play dodge ball or solve an escape room with the teenagers. What it does mean is that you are there for the youth of our church. It would be so wonderful if each of our youth could name five adults in our congregation who are their fans. Five adults who they know will support them, pray for them, and be cheering for them as they grow in their faith here at St. Mark's. At the Ministries Fair on Nov. 7, you will have the opportunity to "step up to the plate" – stop by the youth table and sign up to be our fan!



*Rachel Mosher, Youth Coordinator*

## Rainbow Fellowship Meeting

The St. Mark's Rainbow Fellowship will meet at 9 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 21 in the church library, following all applicable COVID protocols effective at that time, including the wearing of masks. All who identify as LGBTQ – no matter age or membership status! – are welcome to join us for this time of fellowship. Please contact Melinda Sims at [rainbow@umcstmarks.org](mailto:rainbow@umcstmarks.org) to RSVP or if you have any questions.



## Christmas Joy for Nash Families

The Nash Neighbors committee will begin collecting \$25 Target and Walmart gift cards for families of Nash Elementary School students next Tuesday, Nov. 9. All of the gift cards our congregation donates will be distributed to families to help their children have a brighter Christmas. We, and they, appreciate your generosity. There are several ways you may donate cards or checks:

- **Online Giving** – If you currently make your offerings to St. Mark's online, it's easy to scroll down to "Nash Gift Cards" and add an amount of \$25 or more.
- **Sunday Dropoff** – Look for the Nash Neighbors table between services on Nov. 14 and 21 to drop off cards or checks.
- **Drive-Through Dropoff** – 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays, Nov. 9 and 16 or Saturdays, Nov. 13 and 20 in the north parking lot.

In addition, you may always mail checks to the church at 1431 W. Magee Rd., Tucson AZ 85704.

Thank you SO much for your demonstration of St. Mark's love and caring for the Nash community.



# 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. through Nov. 24, room 17/18 and Zoom

A six-week study continues, 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*

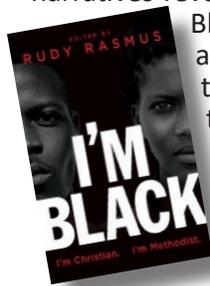
## Open Minds Book Group

9-10:30 a.m. Nov. 19 via Zoom: **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents**, by Isabel Wilkerson (2020). A thoroughly researched account of how America has been shaped by a hidden caste system. Beyond race, class, or other factors, Wilkerson describes the powerful caste system that continues to influence our lives and behaviors, as well as the direction of our nation. Using stories about Americans from our past and present, she reveals ways that this insidious undertow of caste manifests on a daily basis, and the effects of this hierarchy on our culture and politics. Wilkerson's book is not only an eye-opening examination of what lies under the surface of life in America, it also points to ways Americans can move beyond destructive divisions with hope for our common humanity. To obtain the Zoom link for this meeting, register on the St. Mark's website (noted at the top of this page), or contact one of the co-leaders (see church directory).

The hardcover is available from Amazon (\$14.79 new or \$8.20 used) and from Barnes & Noble. *Led by Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban.*

## Sharing/Family Life Sunday School

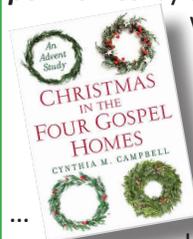
**I'm Black, I'm Christian, I'm Methodist, 9:30 a.m. Sundays, Nov. 7, 14, and 21 in rooms 17/18 or via Zoom.** Ten personal narratives reveal the shared and distinct struggles of being Black in the United Methodist Church. All 10 authors are United Methodist ministers who tell of their personal struggles 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.



There is a book that accompanies the videos, but it is optional for our class study, which will run for three weeks. We'd love to welcome you to our class, whether just for this study or long-term. *Led by Terry Majewski and Rick Farnsworth.*

## ADVENT BEGINS SUNDAY, NOV. 28

Join one of our groups to study **Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes** by Cynthia M. Campbell. This will be a four-week, church-wide study that accompanies Pastor Lynn's Advent sermons. We know Mark and Luke have birth narratives of Jesus. We also know the prologue to the Gospel of John has been used as such with: "... and the Word was made flesh ..." But what about Mark? Come and see what this study has to say about this. You have several choices of groups. A limited number of books will be available on Sundays beginning Nov. 7 in the courtyard between services. Cost is \$8.



DAY	TIME	PLACE	FACILITATOR	START
SUN	8:30 a.m.	St. Mark's	Linda Walker	11/28
	9:30	Hybrid*	Sharing/Fam Life	11/28
	11:30	St. Mark's	Judy Boroto	11/28
MON	10 a.m.	Mt. View	Marge Sogn	11/29
	6:30 p.m.	Barnes & Noble	Marlyce Wright	11/29
WED	10 a.m.	Hybrid*	Marcia Rostad	12/1
THUR	2 p.m.	St. Mark's	Linda Walker	12/2
TBA	TBA	Off campus	Pastor Kim	TBA

\*Hybrid classes take place in room 17/18 and via Zoom.

## Happenings at Dove Mountain

Worship in the cafeteria of the Dove Mountain CSTEM K-8 School has been on hold since March 2020. You know that schools in our area did not rush to reopen in 2021, so we were not allowed the opportunity to restart worship as early as we did on the Magee campus.

In the meantime, we made the decision to suspend worship until January so we can rebuild relationships in that area through programs and contacts. We are also looking at ways to enhance the worship experience in that space.

On Oct. 1, we facilitated a food truck event in the parking lot of the school. All who came, including the principal and several teachers, had a good time and great food. Here are the events that we have planned in the next couple of months:

- Nov. 14: Food packaging through Rise Against Hunger
- Nov. 19: Car Show and DJ at Dove Mountain Retail Center
- Early December: Drive-up family movie, "The Star" – more info to come
- Advent book study, time and place TBA
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve family service, 4 p.m. at Dove Mountain CSTEM School



We hope you will come out and support these events.

Kim Ogle, Christian Formation and Outreach Pastor

## Learning Gratitude in Children's Sunday School

November is a time of THANKSGIVING and GRATITUDE. The St. Mark's Sunday School teachers feel blessed and grateful for the opportunity to see your child's smiling face at 10 a.m. Sunday mornings. In the month of November, children in preschool – fifth grade will study Scripture from the book of Exodus and will talk about what it means to be grateful. The last Sunday in November, we will switch to Scripture from Luke and head into our Advent study beginning on Dec. 5.

In October, the Sunday school classes were able to resume their tradition of attending children's time during worship. Children will attend and participate in children's time in the Sanctuary/traditional service on the second and fourth Sunday of the month and in the Fellowship Hall/modern service on the third Sunday of each month. Please note that there is no children's time on Communion Sunday and no Sunday School on fifth Sundays, when families worship together at 10 a.m. In gratitude for the amazing Sunday School teachers that we are blessed to have, next time you see them, be sure to THANK them for the wonderful job they do each week. See you in Sunday School!



## Full Charge Bookkeeper Job Opening!

We are hiring!

We are sad to lose our part-time full charge bookkeeper, and we need to fill this position. If you or someone you know is seeking a part-time position in finance and administration, please check out our website. Please also pray for a qualified person to apply who will be an asset to the team and to the church.



A complete job description is available on our website at <https://umcstmarks.org/about-us/job-opportunities/>. To apply for this position, please submit a cover letter and your resume to [info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org). If you have questions, contact the church office at 520-297-2062.

## Update from Worldwide Christian Support Task Force

Sunday, Nov. 7 is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. On that day, St. Mark's will join with millions of Christians worldwide to pray for Christians who are being persecuted for their faith in Christ. The No. 1 thing that persecuted Christians ask for is for their Christian brothers and sisters around the world to pray for them.



The St. Mark's Worldwide Christian Support Task Force asks you to particularly pray for Christians in the following focus group countries:

- **China** -- Where authorities have closed Christian churches, raided house churches, handcuffed pastors mid-service, and removed crosses from church buildings
- **India** -- Where anti-conversion laws have been used in several regions to harass and intimidate Christians, and converted Christians have been forced to reconvert to Hinduism
- **Egypt** -- Where Christian churches have been restricted in building more churches or running social services and where local authorities have been unwilling to protect Christians when attacked
- **Myanmar** -- Where Christians in the north live in internal displacement camps, where they are denied food and health care
- **Mexico** -- Where criminal gangs attack Christian leaders because they oppose corruption and drug use, and where, in some indigenous communities, anyone who decides to abandon the community's religious beliefs or practices often faces rejection or punishment such as incarceration or being forced from the community
- **Syria** -- Where extremist groups ban public expression of Christianity and have seized and destroyed churches
- **Afghanistan** -- Where Christians are attacked or killed for their faith and disowned by family members who discover that they are Christians

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@umcstmarks.org](mailto:christiansupport@umcstmarks.org) or drop us a note in our mailbox at the church office on weekdays.

## UMC Pays Tribute to Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month. Archaeologists have researched the migration of peoples from north central Asia over a land bridge that stretched across the Bering Strait between modern-day Siberia and Alaska during the Pleistocene Ice Age—some 13,000 years ago. The ancestors of American Native peoples, including Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians, were indigenous to the lands that have since become the United States. Sovereign societies shared the continent through complex and frequently negotiated networks of alliances, confederacies, intermarriage, treaties, and trade agreements. There are many diverse Native peoples and ethnic groups with distinct languages, customs, and traditions.

This month is a time to celebrate these rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. Native American Heritage Month is also an opportune time to educate the general public about Native American cultures, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced—both historically and in the present—and the ways in which Native citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.

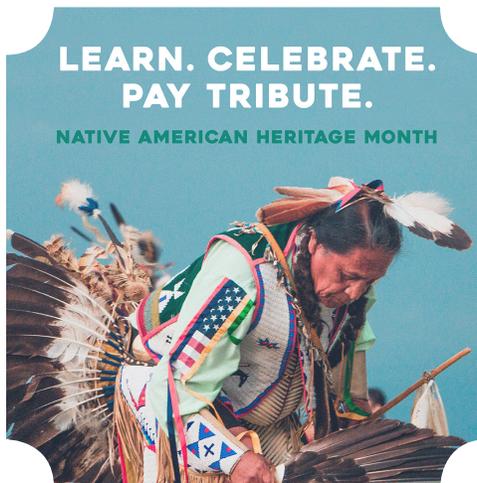
There are 22 federally recognized Native nations and tribes in Arizona. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe is one of the

most well-known in the Tucson region. In addition to the Yaqui people's connection to nature, the culture merges Christianity and Yaqui spirituality in some of their traditional ceremonies.

The Tohono O'odham Nation is the largest in Southern Arizona, is comparable in size to the state of Connecticut, and encompasses parts of Pinal and Pima Counties before continuing south into Mexico. Traditionally, the O'odham people practiced a combination of hunting, gathering and cultivation of crops including squash, beans, cotton, and corn. The O'odham relationship to the land is paramount in their cultural and spiritual beliefs. Today, O'odham culture has taken on influences from Mexican, Spanish, and American traditions. However, many cultural expressions can be traced back hundreds of years.

The United Methodist Church recognizes the contributions and gifts of Native peoples to the church and its communities around the globe by supporting Native Americans and indigenous peoples and their traditions. Please visit the St. Mark's United Methodist Church Racial Equity web page to learn more: <https://umcstmarks.org/racial-equity>, then select "Racial Equity Resources" and click on "Native."

—Kathy McCasland, Racial Equity Advocates



### Racial Equity Update

After completion of Adult Spiritual Growth studies about racism, equity and justice, members of the St. Mark's congregation formed a Racial Equity Task Force earlier this year. Its purpose was to provide a plan and lay the groundwork for change in ourselves, our church, and our community. The task force has completed its work by developing a plan for church committees, church staff, and our congregation to move toward diversity, racial justice, and racial equity.

Part of the task force's work included developing resources on the St. Mark's UMC website to help our community better understand the history and current challenges experienced by various races in the United States. These resources are now available on the website and can be used to begin or further your learning on issues such as racism and racial equity that affect us all: <https://umcstmarks.org/racial-equity/>

—Kathy McCasland, Racial Equity Advocates



This year our special Thanksgiving offering will support the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, or UMCOR.

UMCOR is the missions branch of the United Methodist Church, first to respond and often last to leave after a disaster. But UMCOR is more than just disaster response. Today, it continues to respond to disasters around the world, to encourage development and sustainable development, and to alleviate suffering. Often, UMCOR partners with agencies and organizations that are already at work in the community.

Please consider a generous gift to the work of UMCOR through our Thanksgiving offering. To give to this special offering, use the Thanksgiving envelope you'll be receiving and bring or mail it to 1431 W. Magee Rd., Tucson, AZ 85704. You may also give online using the "Thanksgiving" option under the donation link at <https://umcstmarks.org/giving/>. Thank you!



## Missions Committee Update

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, the Missions Committee has approved the following disbursements for the fourth quarter of this year:

- \$2,500 - **Fuente de Vida Church** In Aqua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico - St. Mark's has a long history, along with other United Methodist congregations in the Desert Southwest Conference, of helping this sister congregation in Aqua Prieta. In the past, pre pandemic, this has included mission trips to the church to help with building projects, support through coffee sales, and financial gifts. Fuente de Vida is an important source of support in the community and they depend on help from St. Mark's and others. School children in many parts of Mexico, including Aqua Prieta, are required to wear uniforms to school but many cannot afford to buy the uniforms and children often only have one uniform that they wear to school every day. Our gift of \$2,500 is being used to set up a fund to buy additional uniforms for children of the church that need this help. Pastor Gela of Fuente de Vida is ecstatic and very grateful to receive our gift to help their children.
- \$2,500 - **Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse** - Emerge! is a local, Tucson-based organization that supports anyone needing help in living a life free from abuse. Each survivor's needs are different and therefore, their services are driven by the needs of the individual survivor and their family. They address all forms of abuse, not just the physical. In addition to the traditional approach of providing survivors with resources, including emergency shelter, safety planning, and education, Emerge! engages our entire community in addressing the underlying

causes of abuse.

- \$2,500 - **The Primavera Foundation** - Many think of Primavera as just an emergency shelter, and although they are indeed that, they are much more. Primavera provides pathways out of poverty for individuals and families who sincerely want to improve their lives. They work with clients to improve their job skills, find sustainable long-term employment, and secure affordable housing. In addition, St. Mark's has long partnered with Primavera's shelter in providing a warm, home-cooked meal on the second and fifth Saturdays each month.
- \$2,500 - **Tu Nidito** - Tu Nidito is wonderful Tucson nonprofit organization that supports children and young adults faced with serious illness and death in their family or with friends. Unsolved childhood grief can lead to serious side effects and long-term complications. Tu Nidito's programs help grieving children improve their communication and coping skills, discover hope for the future, and understand that grief is a normal response to death and illness, and with the proper tools and support system they are empowered to navigate their grief now and in the future.

You can see that through your commitment to supporting our St. Mark's mission partners, we are aiding so many with a vast diversity of needs. Thank you for your help! If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with these or other St. Mark's mission partner organizations or if you are interested in serving on the Missions Committee, contact us at [missions@umcstmarks.org](mailto:missions@umcstmarks.org) or visit our table at the upcoming Ministries Fair.

Peace.

*John Yost, Missions Committee Chair*

## Ride in Support of Children's Grief Awareness



Join Tu Nidito Saturday, Nov. 13 for a bike ride in honor of children's grief awareness! With a donation to Tu Nidito, cyclists can participate in a 6-10 mile group ride on the Loop, beginning at 7 a.m. at Tu Nidito, 3922 N. Mountain Ave. Complimentary breakfast will be served at Tu Nidito after the bike ride! Call 520-322-

9155 or email [dana@tunidito.org](mailto:dana@tunidito.org) with questions or to RSVP.

## Volunteer to Serve Primavera Meals

In January, we will resume serving meals at Primavera on the second and fifth Saturday of each month. This was our normal rotation for years prior to the pandemic, and many of our St. Mark's groups and committees have participated in this great mission opportunity. If you or your group are interested in serving or want additional information, please email [missions@umcstmarks.org](mailto:missions@umcstmarks.org) with the date you are signing up for and the name(s) of the participants, or with the information you are requesting. Or sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/PrimaveraSpring2022>. Available dates are Feb. 12, March 12, and April 9 and 30. (January is already booked!) We have a recipe book available that has been used in the past to help with shopping and meal preparation.

Thank you for your service!

*Missions continues page 9*

# Youth Ministry

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



## Events Calendar

### Middle and High School Students

- Nov. 7** 4-6 p.m. Underground Church
- Nov. 11** South District Event - We Stand Up (UA High Ropes Course)
- Nov. 14** NO YOUTH (District event on Nov. 11)
- Nov. 21** Walking and Talking Through the Meditation Garden
- Nov. 28** NO YOUTH (Thanksgiving weekend)
- Dec. 5** 4-6 p.m. Youth Group Shorts



## Thank You!

Our youth had another successful Pumpkin Patch! Thank you so much for everyone who helped. From those who helped unload (all 1,175!) pumpkins, to those who signed up to sell while the youth were unavailable, and of course those who bought pumpkins from us! The proceeds will go to our youth program and help support youth missions!

## We Escaped!



We had nine super sleuths at Youth Group on Oct. 24. They received a mysterious note that a witch had been spotted on the roof of the Wesley House, and she had stolen all of the Halloween treats and hid them. There were crazy clues hidden all throughout the Wesley House, and they had to work together to solve them.

When they were able to get out of the Wesley House, they discovered a piñata with all kinds of goodies. Good job, guys!

## Please Help at the Ministries Fair

St. Mark's

# Youth Group

2021-2022

On Nov. 7, St. Mark's is hosting a Ministries Fair between services in the courtyard. At this fair, the youth will ask congregation members sign

up to be our fans! We need some students to sign up to hang out at the table with Rachel and make her look cool! Email Rachel at [rachel@umcstmarks.org](mailto:rachel@umcstmarks.org) if you are willing to help! (There MAY be free swag involved – just maybe ...)

## MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

### 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!

### High Ropes Course

The South District has a long history of fantastic events for youth from all around Southern Arizona. You don't have school on Veteran's Day (Thursday, Nov. 11), so why not hang out with us!? We will meet with other churches at the UA Ropes Course from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for some awesome challenges and fellowship! You will need to wear close-toed shoes and comfortable clothes for climbing and bring water and a sack lunch. The ropes course has moved! Contact Rachel for the address and with any questions. This is such an amazing event, you don't want to miss it. Scholarships are available.



**\$10**  
**We Stand Up**

November 11, 10am-3pm

### Walk, Talk in the Meditation Garden

Have you ever checked out the Meditation Garden in the southwest corner of the campus? It's a really cool little space! Come join us as we explore the path through the cool desert plants. Don't worry, we won't ONLY walk and talk! We will have some other fun ways to explore. Meet Rachel at the Wesley House!



### Thanksgiving Weekend

Thanksgiving is a time to gather with our family and reflect on what we are

No Youth Group 11/28  
Happy Thanksgiving! Eat some more leftovers. Mmmm

### November Birthdays

- Nov. 15—**Keves Velasco**
- Nov. 20—**Ryan Hickerson**
- Nov. 24—**Rose Sanchez**



Youth news continued on page 8

# Youth Ministry

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



## Continued from page 7

all so thankful for. I am thankful for each student in our youth group, and so thankful for this congregation who supports us so well. On Thanksgiving, the Moshers are "that" family. The ones who run a 5K on Thanksgiving morning. What are your traditions? Send them in, or post them on our social media! Rachel wants to hear what you do!

## Youth Group Shorts

Trending Now: our awesome Youth Group! You do NOT need an app to have the fun! Join us on Dec. 5 while we jump on the latest trends and try our hand at a few of them. These videos will only be used for our own Youth Group, unless you have parental permission to share YOUR videos. We will have a job for everyone. We not only need stars, but we need camera crews, script writers – the works!



# St Mark's PRETEENS

Fourth and fifth graders, come join us from 4-6 p.m. Sundays for games, crafts, and a Bible lesson. This month we have a lot of exciting things to look forward to, so bring a friend and come prepared to have a blast!



- Nov. 7: Pre-Teen Olympics
- Nov. 14: Among Us in Real Life
- Nov. 21 : Movie Night (Prince of Egypt)
- Nov. 28: No Meeting! Enjoy the holiday weekend, and don't forget to practice the Fruits of the Spirit!

## CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation class had its first field trip. We went to Congregation Anshei-Israel and had a tour of the worship space and then joined them for a Shabbat service. Last year's confirmands were also invited, since they were unable to go on field trips last year.



## SERVICE HOURS

We have more opportunity for service hours! Not only can you get service ours at the Ministries Fair, but you can ALSO get service hours by coming to Service Sundays (from 4-6 p.m.). Our next Service Sunday is Dec. 12! Mark your calendar. 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.

Let's get ready to rumble!

Sign Up Here

Who can get more youth group members to help at a fundraiser!? Middle School? High School?? November 6th. On Campus. YOU can help your group win!! Show up to help, you earn your group 1 point. Sign up AND show up, and you earn your team 2 points!!

If you're reading this online, click here to sign up: <https://forms.gle/V1AKncue6MKY2hay9>



# Missions Ministry

## Food Banks Need Additional Support for the Holidays

St. Mark's has been a key supporter of the northwest food bank at Interfaith Community Services for many months. We have donated more than 19,000 lbs. of food this year alone! That has been life-changing for so many individuals and families in need. Thank you for your help! Thanksgiving and Christmas are almost here. Food banks normally have an even higher volume of clients needing help this time of the year. If you are able, please consider making a donation. All donations big or small make a difference and are greatly appreciated. For example, a jar of spaghetti sauce and a box of spaghetti can be purchased for around \$4 and that can be a meal for a family of four. You can bring your donations between 10-11 a.m. every Tuesday and Saturday to the north parking lot of the church. If that is not convenient, you can drop off donations at the church office during normal business hours.

Items most needed are:

- Peanut Butter
- Boxed Breakfast Cereal
- Dry Pasta - Spaghetti and Macaroni
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Canned Meat, Tuna, and Chicken
- Canned Ravioli, Chili, and Spaghetti O's
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Rice and Dry Beans
- Boxed Stuffing Mix

Thanks again!

## HIV/AIDS Committee News

Once again the HIV/AIDS Committee sends you greetings and a HUGE THANK YOU for all your help in collecting cleaning and hygiene items for the CarePackages for the November POZ Café St. Mark's is helping to sponsor! We will be filling those bags on Wednesday, Nov. 17. Let Pat Small know if you would like to help—(see church directory).

WHOOSH!!>>>>>Time moves on and we're asking you to watch for the Christmas tree in the courtyard where you can choose an ornament (or two!) with the name and age of a child, then buy a gift and return the ornament and unwrapped gift. The gifts will go to children who are living with parents or guardians, including grandparents, who are living with HIV/AIDS. There will be a party on Family Day for parents to choose gifts and wrap them for their kids! Any questions? Email Pat.



# Masterpiece Festival

Door Prize Drawings • Food • Free Admission • Free Parking!

## 12th Annual Arts & Crafts Show

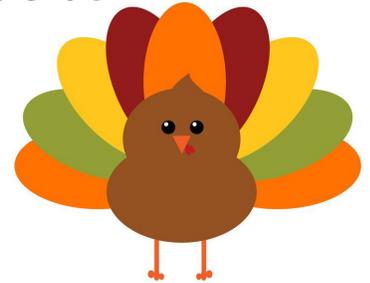
Sponsored by our Fine Arts & Crafts Guild

Over 60 vendors displaying unique gifts and one-of-a kind crafts of handmade ceramics, jewelry, art, holiday items, and more.

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6

## Reminder!

The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday 11/25 and 11/26 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.



## Chronic Pain and Illness Group

The St. Mark's UMC **Chronic Illness and Pain Support Group** meets from 10:30 a.m. to noon the second and fourth Wednesday of each month in the church library and via Zoom. We offer a time of prayer during each meeting and time to share personal joys and concerns, as you are comfortable. We want to help each other whenever we can. At each meeting, we remind ourselves that we are meeting in a safe space as we listen and share, and everyone's confidentiality is respected and held. For more info or for the Zoom link contact April DuBoce at [chronicillness@umcstmarks.org](mailto:chronicillness@umcstmarks.org) or call the church office at 520-297-2062. You do not have to be a member of St. Mark's to participate.

## Check Out Just Breathe Yoga

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](mailto:tricia@umcstmarks.org) for the Zoom link, waiver or more information.

## 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) 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 these families:**

- Prayers for Eric and Ruth Robinson and their family at the passing of Eric's father Gene. They are very distressed and flew out Wednesday, Oct. 13 to help out Eric's mother.
- We received word Oct. 27 that Dorothy Bonar had passed over the weekend. Please keep her husband, John, their son, Scott, and all of their family in your prayers as they process their grief. A celebration of Dorothy's life will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18 at St. Mark's. We will send out a reminder of this as the date approaches. Thank you.



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**

In person

8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Livestreamed

10 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...

Thank you for being so kind as to allow us to utilize your space for our Student Symposium. As future choral educators, we are so thankful to have been able to gather with fellow students and professionals from around the state of Arizona and learn such valuable lessons about how to teach choral music to young students and to share a beautiful in-person choral concert with the community again. Thank you for giving us a helping hand on our journey to educating the next generation of musicians.

*The UArizona Undergraduate Student Chapter Officers of American Choral Directors Association*

Thank you for the lovely cards, phone calls, and your special prayers that I have received because I recently fell and broke my right shoulder. Thankfully it's a small break and surgery not needed. It will be wonderful when I am healed and can drive again so I can visit Jim daily and be back in church.

*God bless, Karen Allison*

'Tis the season to be jolly! The *St. Mark's Quilters* thank everyone who helped make our "Christmas in July" project a huge success. We were able to create 100 gorgeous quilts for AVIVA to give to children in foster care in December.



### 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.

# LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Please keep these people in your prayers. Email additions or updates to [messenger@umcstmarks.org](mailto: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 and Nathan Lennarson**, grandsons 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  
**Jacob Szczygiel**, grandson of Joyce Flick  
**Michael and Karisa Szczygiel**, son-in-law and daughter  
of Joyce Flick  
**Brianna Walker**, granddaughter of Barbara Fradenburgh;  
niece of Joan Fradenburgh



## November prayer requests

The St. Mark's Prayer Ministry Team provides monthly prayer requests that include various church activities and services, mission opportunities, and people we can pray for during the month. The monthly Prayer Requests are located on the church website, <https://umcstmarks.org/> under the "Ministries" tab, then "Congregational Care." Scroll down to "Prayer Ministry Team" and print out the monthly prayer card.

† Give thanks for the new Sunday morning worship times and formats, 8:30 and 10 a.m. traditional services with organ music and choirs in the Sanctuary, as well as a modern service with contemporary music and our Praise Team at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and a pre-recorded 10 a.m. service available online, via the church website or YouTube.

† Pray God's blessings for the online Soul Station midweek service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. There is a program and learning/sharing time, a time to share prayer concerns and joys, and celebration of Communion each week. If you are new to Soul Station, contact the church office at 520-297-2062 or [info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org) to request the Zoom link.

† Pray God's blessings and good attendance at the St. Mark's Annual Church/Charge Conference to be held Wednesday evening, Nov. 3 in the Sanctuary. All are invited to participate in this business meeting; to hear reports and plans for our future. Only church members can vote. Masks are required and we will observe socially distanced seating. Contact the church office for Zoom link information to connect to this meeting online.

† Ask God's blessings for the St. Mark's Masterpiece Arts and Crafts Festival as a fundraiser, and a means of outreach to the community, that will be held Saturday, Nov. 6 on the church campus. Pray for good attendance, nice weather, and for everyone to observe necessary health protections, including wearing a mask and maintaining a safe, social distance.

† Ask God's blessing of our All Saint's Day Celebration on Sunday, Nov. 7, as we remember the faith, leadership, and love of church members, friends, and family who have passed away.

† Ask God's blessings and good participation in the Ministries Fair in the courtyard on Sunday, Nov. 7, between and after services. It's an opportunity to see and talk with people involved in various church committees, teams, and groups working and serving for everyone.

Pray that God will help you find information and/or meet others who are involved, serving, and sharing in ways that you can help with.

† Pray God's blessings and good attendance at the showing of the Pilgrimage to Magdalena, co-produced by our former senior pastor, the Rev. Jerry Haas, on Wednesday evening, Nov. 17 in the Sanctuary.

† Ask God's blessings of the St. Mark's Thanksgiving Eve Service in the Sanctuary on Wednesday evening, Nov. 24. Pray also for safety, good weather, and God's travel mercies for everyone on the roads/in the air to celebrate with family and friends.

† Ask God's blessings of the 2022 Stewardship Campaign, and everyone who pledged money, and signed commitments to serve and support the ministries, staff, and operation of St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

† 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, or are homebound, and/or are recovering at home or in rehab facilities.

† Ask God's blessings of the COVID-19 booster vaccines, as well as new vaccines for children ages 5-11.

† Give thanks for the 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. The need for food assistance is very real in our Tucson area.

† South District Superintendent Rev. Matt Ashley asks us to pray for other church pastors and their ministries each month. The request for November is for First UMC - Bisbee; First UMC - Eloy; and First 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](mailto:messenger@umcstmarks.org)

## Reflections

As a fourth-grader, I can remember learning about Native American cultures and geography of the west. I can remember being in awe of the nomadic people who followed the buffalo and used every part of the animal for their lives. I can remember loving the plateaus of the west and being intrigued by all that I read. I never dreamed I would live here. It was easy to ignore the Native influences while we lived in the suburbs of Phoenix, but in Flagstaff there was no question of the influence of the Native American peoples who surrounded us. The Navajo and Hopi reservations were just to the east, and other tribes lived to the west.

While in Flagstaff, I was invited to a cultural celebration of winter and to a celebration of life after the death of a young adult. I learned about Navajo Code Talkers from one of the surviving veterans, was introduced to prayer in the Navajo tradition, and learned the story of water passed down through the generations. Every day I interacted with at least one Navajo or Hopi, and I was repeatedly shown the systemic issues that continue to lead to racism and poverty on the Reservation. I don't pretend to know all I need to know, but I was grateful for those who patiently taught me and showed me their culture and their reality.

This month is set aside in our country as National Native American Heritage month. President George H.W. Bush was the first to sign this into being in 1990, and it's been recognized by each president since 1994. The month is set

aside to recognize the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S. and to continue to honor the contributions of Native Americans today.

I invite you to learn something new this month. An easy way to do that is to join Rev. Jerry Haas and the Border Community Alliance as it premieres a movie in our Sanctuary. This movie is a stunning visual portrayal of a centuries-old cross-border, multicultural pilgrimage to Magdalena de Kino in Sonora, Mexico. Another way is to read online about the UMW materials around justice for Native Americans.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/native-americans-justice>

Or, pick up a book to read. I am partial to books by Ray Buckley, an Alaska Native I referenced in my sermon about gifts. I have multiple copies of his children's books, plus a few for adults if you want to borrow! Plus there are some podcasts. Let me know if you want to know where to find them! How can you expand your understanding of those cultures and peoples who lived here long before we did? My life is more rich because of what I have learned. May yours be, as well.

*See you soon,  
Pastor Lynn*