

Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

Volume 62, Number 1

January 5, 2022



Thanks and Good Luck, Betsy!

Dr. Elizabeth "Betsy" Schauer has made a remarkable impact on Chancel Choir members as well as St. Mark's music ministries and worship services. It was incredibly difficult to learn that she would be resigning at the end of 2021 after 17½ years of service. Indeed, her last service was the beautiful 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.



We are overjoyed that Betsy has been promoted to Music Director of Choral

Activities at the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music. We wish her only the best in her career as she continues to enrich musicians, the college, and schools and communities around the country.

If you have sung in the Chancel Choir, you know Betsy is engaged and tireless when it comes to having the Chancel Choir be the best that it can be.

"She has a great sense of humor which helps you laugh and improve your performance at the same time," said one choir member. "My greatest admiration of her is that she expected we could sing beautifully and we often times did."

St. Mark's has been blessed over these many years to enjoy Chancel Choir selections that include favorite tunes and new anthems, music from around the world, and cantatas with choral-brass orchestral works that made our hearts sing! Our congregation, neighbors and visitors learned how awesome and fun it was to participate in the annual Community Carol Sing.

Betsy, our congregation wishes you and your family the very best. We wish you a fond farewell. Please know that you remain in our prayers. May your life be as full and rewarding as you have enriched ours.

If you wish to send a card or letter to Betsy, call the church office at 520-297-2062 for her address.

As we say goodbye to Betsy, we welcome Michael Scionti to St. Mark's as our Interim Chancel Choir director. We are blessed to have him join the team. Welcome, Michael!

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

New Year Brings Change in Faces

We give thanks for the leaders of our committees and task forces here at St. Mark's. With the new calendar year come some changes in leadership. Join us as we say thank you to those who are rotating off of committee leadership and those who are stepping up to lead.

Farewell to ...

- Sally Mettler, SPRC Chair
- John Cecilia, Trustees Chair
- Mark Hrabe, Chair of Church and Society
- Judy Boroto, Chair of Adult Spiritual Growth
- Sandi Heilman, Chair of Animal Ministry Team
- Dana Bugbee, Chair of Worship Committee

We are thrilled to have these leaders step up:

- Tom Ellis, SPRC Chair
- Melinda Sims, Chair of Church and Society
- Jan Walker and Marlyce Wright, Co-Chairs of Animal Ministry Team
- Marg Sogn, interim Chair of Church Growth and Hospitality

Trustees will elect their own chair this month.

We still have space for great leaders! We are working to fill the other two positions (Adult Spiritual Growth and Worship); rest assured they won't be forgotten. If you would like to serve on a committee or chair a committee, let us know. You can contact the office at 520-297-2062 or info@umcstmarks.org. We invite you all to pray for the leadership of the church, both committee chairs and committee members.

Nominations Committee



Board of Trustees 2021 Year-End Report

2021 was a challenging year in many ways, and the needs of the St. Mark's campus continued. Through a lot of dedicated work and the financial support of our congregation, the following projects were completed:

- Carpet was replaced in the administration area of the main office plus five individual offices
- The fire door that leads from the Fellowship Hall lobby to the kitchen area was replaced with a windowed version to improve safety
- Upgraded the Early Childhood Center fire monitoring panel
- Replaced two HVAC systems in the Sanctuary
- Loading zone area from south parking lot replaced
- Five campus water fountains replaced with bottle-filler types
- The roofs on the Sanctuary and Wesley House were cleaned, patched, and recoated
- Additional panic buttons installed
- Mobile videoconferencing station put into use
- Security monitoring screen installed in main office

The Board of Trustees also thanks the Permanent Endowment and Finance committees for their support, which helped make a lot of the above projects possible. Our campus is supported daily by our maintenance team of Johnny Slovak and Tony Lovaglio, so please take a moment to thank them when you have the opportunity.

John T. Cecilia, Board of Trustees chair

"What Does the Endowment Committee Mean to You?"

I posed this question to my daughter, who represents the younger population of the congregation at St. Mark's. From her witnessing my participation on the committee for the past few years, she has come to think of our committee as genies. We grant wishes and you don't need to rub a lamp! The Endowment Committee is here to help anyone (whether you are on a committee or pursuing an individual task), who needs financial assistance on a project for the benefit of St. Mark's.

Renee Carrasco, Endowment Committee chair



Nice Work, Lillian Lovaglio!

St. Mark's United Methodist Church and "New York Blanket Lill" dropped off a carload of custom-made blankets for the children at Diamond Children's Medical Center. These blankets bring comfort, warmth and love for those who need it most! It took about a year for Lillian Lovaglio to make the 215 blankets.



Women's Walk to Emmaus Returning This Spring

It was the morning of Thursday, March 12, 2020. A large team of many women had been preparing for months for



the Women's Walk to Emmaus. Much time and energy and many, many prayers had been invested in the preparation for this walk. But, there

had been a lot of talk about something called COVID-19. As much talk as there had been, there were even more questions. So, at the very last minute, organizers made the difficult decision to cancel the weekend.

With renewed energy and optimism, a team of women are preparing once again for a spring Women's Walk to Emmaus. If you are a member of The Emmaus Community, think about who you know who you would like to guide through this experience. If you are not a member of The Emmaus Community but would like to find out more about this retreat experience of connecting with God on a personal level, just seek out a member of The Emmaus Community with whom to speak. If you don't know a member of The Emmaus Community, feel free to contact one of us – your St. Mark's representatives to The Emmaus Community.

Diane James
Susan Putt
Becky Strain

[\(See church directory for their contact info\)](#)

Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

Spring Lineup of Spiritual Formation Opportunities

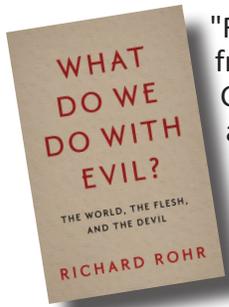
ALL REGISTRATION IS ONLINE AT <https://umcstmarks.org> then go to "Classes" and then select "Adult Spiritual Growth Opportunities." Or sign up at the Adult Spiritual Growth board on the patio Sunday mornings.

Early 2022 Short-Term Classes

"What Do We Do With Evil? The World, the Flesh, and the Devil" by Richard Rohr. 6-7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 27 – Feb. 24 in room 20. Led by Kathy Narney.

"First we must fall, and then we recover from that fall – and both are the mercy of God." These words of Julian of Norwich are the undercurrent of Father Richard Rohr's 98-page book. He addresses the "poorly understood concept of sin and the scary concept of evil" – their sources, and how Scripture and Jesus present these themes. How do we understand

these concepts – and thus free ourselves to more fully delight in our creator? A limited number of books will be available for purchase for \$10, or you can order from various online vendors.



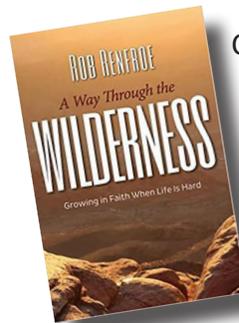
Bible Journaling, 4-6 p.m. Jan. 9, Fellowship Hall. As we start the new year, we invite you to try out a new tool for your spiritual life! Join a one-session class of Bible journaling to find out what it's about and get started. Reservations aren't required but would help us prepare. Email Rachel Mosher at rachel@umcstmarks.org to sign up!

Sunday Study with Pastor Lynn, 4-6 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 23 and 30, and Feb. 6, church library. Mark your calendar for a Sunday afternoon study coming in late January! Pastor Lynn will lead us in three weeks of study on an exciting new topic she hasn't chosen yet. Watch the Friday emails and the "Announcements" page of our website to find out more!

"A Way Through the Wilderness: Growing in Faith When Life is Hard" by Rob Renfroe. 2-3:30 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 20 – Feb. 24, room 20. Led by Lynn Nystrom and Linda Walker.

COVID-19, Delta variant, Omicron variant, pandemic, infection and death rates—these headline-making words have been with us for what seems like forever. Our "normal" way of life has been put on hold. Add this to the usual highs and lows of life and it may sometimes feel like God has abandoned us; that we are alone and lost. In this book, Rob Renfro

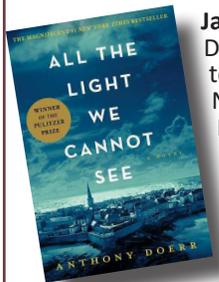
helps us to find a way to make it through another day with the help of God's guidance and love. Books are available from various online vendors. *Continued on page 4*



Open Minds Book Group

Monthly Friday discussion, 9-10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Do you enjoy discussing the books you read? This St. Mark's book group is for you! Books may be borrowed from the Pima County Library or purchased (new or used) from book sellers such as Amazon or Barnes & Noble. Co-leaders are Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban.



Jan. 14: "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr (2014). This compelling novel weaves together the lives of an orphan boy and his sister in Nazi Germany and a blind girl and her father living in France. The story alternates between these young people as they grow up, facing hardships during WWII, losing some people they love, learning whom to trust and how to survive. Toward the end of the war when the German (now a soldier) and blind woman come together in the coastal citadel of Saint-Malo, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, that people can be good to each other.

Feb. 11: "When Time Stopped: A Memoir of My Father's War and What Remains" by Ariana Neumann (2020). Of 34 Neumann family members living in Czechoslovakia before WWII, 25 were killed by the Nazis. What author Ariana Neumann's father experienced as a Jew was unspeakable. Decades later, after he'd built a new life in Venezuela, he still couldn't talk about it. Ariana knew nothing of his

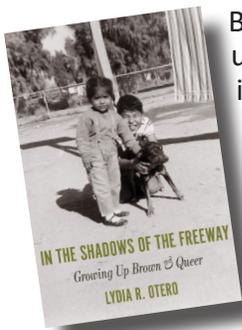
past or that he was Jewish until after his death, when she found a box filled with diaries, letters and other memorabilia that prompted an investigation into her father's life in Nazi Germany. After piecing together his family history, she wrote this heartbreaking memoir.

March 25: "Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy" by Donald Kraybill, Steven Nolt and David Weaver-Zercher (2007). The authors present a balanced and moving account of the 2006 Nickel Mines tragedy—the shooting of Amish school children by a deranged gunman—and its aftermath in the tightly knit Pennsylvania Amish community. Tough questions are raised about contradictions in Amish religious beliefs and conundrums, such as how a loving God can permit schoolgirls to be massacred. While the Amish lifestyle isn't for everyone, in a world where one mass shooting often triggers another, the Amish remind us there is a better response.

April 22: "Afterlife" by Julia Alvarez (2020). In this powerful novel about Latino immigrants in the United States, Ms. Alvarez asks: What do we owe our family members and neighbors in times of crisis? How do we live in a fractured society without losing faith in one another or ourselves? And how do we stay true to the loved ones we've lost? Antonia, a recent retiree from a Vermont college where she taught English, grapples with these questions following the death of her husband and disappearance of one of her sisters.

Early 2022 Short-Term Classes, continued from page 3

"In the Shadows of the Freeway: Growing up Brown and Queer" by Lydia Otero, winner of the Dolores Huerta Legacy Award in 2019. 2-3:30 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 3 and 10, rooms 17/18. Led by Joylee Gathings.



Born in 1955, Otero writes about growing up right here in Tucson, Ariz. The book is a personal memoir that also covers a lot of the history of Tucson and its treatment of people of Latin descent. Otero talks about the education system and teachers and how Latinx were treated as outsiders, disregarding the fact they were here first. The book also covers

how the building of the Interstate 10 freeway created a barrier that changed the flow of Otero's life. We will have a discussion of the book in the first session. We will be joined by the author in the second session. Bring your questions about growing up brown and queer in Tucson. Books are available from various online vendors.



Rainbow Fellowship Meeting

The St. Mark's Rainbow Fellowship will meet at 9 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 16 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 to RSVP or if you have any questions.



2022 Messenger schedule online

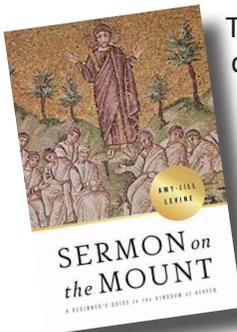
The 2022 **Messenger** schedule is available on the St. Mark's website. On the home page, <https://umcstmarks.org/> scroll down to "Deadlines & Archived Newsletters" under the "Newsletters" heading.

The next issue publishes on Feb. 2 and the deadline to submit information is Jan. 25. Submit information for the **Messenger** to messenger@umcstmarks.org.



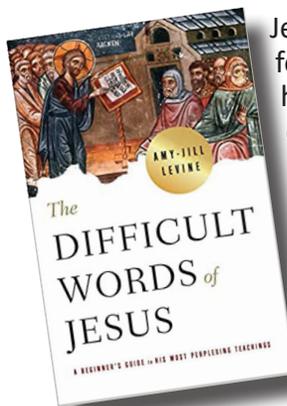
Ongoing Study Groups

Wednesday Morning Study Group: "Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven" by Amy-Jill Levine. 10-11:30 a.m. Hybrid class, room 17/18 or Zoom. Led by Marcia Rostad.



The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus' most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings have meant to his disciples and to the others who first heard them? How do they enhance our reading of the rest of the Gospel of Matthew, and how do they speak across the centuries to listeners today? How, if we pay careful attention to his words, does Jesus provide us a road map to living as God would have us live? In this study, Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today. Books available through Cokesbury or Amazon.

Sharing/Family Life Adult Sunday School: "The Difficult Words of Jesus: A Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings" by Amy-Jill Levine. 9:30-11 a.m. Jan. 9 – Feb. 20. Hybrid class, room 17/18 or Zoom. (No class Jan. 30.) Led by Terry Majewski and Rick Farnsworth.



Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God's word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; and he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes he spoke words that followers then and now struggle with. For example, he instructs disciples to hate members of their own families (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). In this book, Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how they have been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the gospel of love and reconciliation. Each class will include book study, a weekly video, and discussion questions related to each week's topic.

To learn more about the class or to receive the link for joining, contact either co-leader (see church directory). All are welcome as we dive into Jesus' most difficult sayings. Books are available through Cokesbury, Amazon, and other websites. Also available as an eBook.

Fun Awaits Children in Sunday School

Happy New Year! We invite all children 3 years old (and potty trained) through fifth grade to join us at 10 a.m. for Sunday School each week, to hear stories about Jesus. In January, Sunday School will focus on stories about Jesus from Luke, chapters 3 and 4. Stories include Jesus in the temple, his baptism, Jesus in the desert and the synagogue and stories of Jesus healing others. The Sunday School teachers have planned lots of SUPER FUN activities to bring these stories to life. For children in preschool through second grade, activities will include Follow the Leader, relay races, worship dancing and filling cheer packages. Children in grades 3-5 will make friendship bracelets, decorate candle holders, make scrolls and comic strips and fill cheer packages. Each week, children in Sunday school attend children's time in one of the worship services and enjoy music and videos related to the week's Scripture. Sunday School meets the first four Sundays of each month. There is no Sunday School when there is a fifth Sunday. Instead, we encourage families to worship together in either the traditional or modern worship service.

Julie Eblen, Children and Family Ministries Coordinator



Changes Coming to Soul Station

Good news, St. Mark's family! Soul Station is changing its format in the new year! We will move forward with a hybrid model of both in person and online. The times will stay the same, so 6:30 p.m. Tucson time, with time beforehand online and in person to gather. This exciting new format will start Jan. 5 with a study on Biblical characters who we don't pay very much attention to but who are much more important than they seem. It doesn't look like we will be able to have food together initially, so as we start with the new format there will not be an in-person meal. This will of course change when the CDC says it is safe to be unmasked indoors with each other. If you would like to learn more please contact the church office by phone (520-297-2062) or email (info@umcstmarks.org).



What You Missed If You Weren't There

St. Mark's Family Ministries and Children's Education committees presented an amazing family Advent celebration in December.



Did you miss it? If you did, you missed a LOT of fun. There were cookies, hot chocolate, photo ops, crafts, a DIY keepsake representing the four Gospel homes of our Advent study, and a snowball fight! Yep. A snowball fight. They were the best kind of snowballs, ever! Our hands didn't get cold, and we didn't have to clean up mushy snow.

What you really missed, if you weren't there, was time with your church family. We love to see you in worship, but a church family is so much more than pew-sitters. At St. Mark's, we participate in the life of the church through things like ushering, making music, serving coffee (finally), supporting our missions, and by having fellowship time with each other. Any time you see a communication that says, "Please plan to join your St. Mark's family for this fun event," rest assured that you are invited. We want people of all generations to feel supported at church.

See you at the next event!

Kim Ogle, Christian Formation and Outreach Pastor

Dove Mountain Update

We can't really measure the effect that we have on others, especially when contacts are incidental. Just at the beginning of Advent, I was wearing my St. Mark's shirt, and, when I mentioned that we had sponsored the car show in the Dove Mountain area, a business owner said, "That was you? We were slammed with business that night."

The parents' group at the Dove Mountain CSTEM K-8 School has emailed me to say the people there appreciate the things we are doing at the school, including the Rise Against Hunger event and the recent free drive-in movie. One parent who watched the movie with his daughter said, "This is a really good thing you're doing here." The animated movie, as you may know was "The Star," which tells the story of the nativity through the eyes of the donkey.

On Christmas Eve, one of the family services was at Dove Mountain. We all tend to measure success in numbers, but was the family Blessing of the Children service less successful if we didn't fill all the seats, or was it valuable because families had a place to go on Christmas Eve?

Blessings,

Kim Ogle, Christian Formation and Outreach Pastor

Missions Update

The third Monday of every January, the USA observes a national holiday to honor the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This day is also designated as the only National Day of Service for the year and is an opportunity for each of us to put Dr. King's values into action by serving others in our community.

In his 1957 "Conquering Self-Centeredness" speech, Dr. King said, "An individual has not begun to live until he can rise above the narrow horizons of his particular individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

Some of us will be working on this day, and many are limited in what we are able to do, but all of us can do something to participate in the National Day of Service and honor Dr. King. Most local nonprofits will have service opportunities to consider or you can do something on your own, including doing something for someone you know, making a phone call, or praying for our country. Carla and I will be leading a team of volunteers at Interfaith Community Services, cleaning local roads through the Pima County Adopt-A-Roadway Program. If you are interested in joining us, email your contact information to missions@umcstmarks.org. It should take around 90 minutes. Together, on this day, we can honor Dr. King and make the world a little bit better.

Peace.
John Yost
Missions Committee Chair

Market on the Move is Jan. 8



Market on the Move returns from 9-11 a.m. Jan. 8 in the south parking lot (La Cañada side). Get 60 lbs. of fresh produce for a \$10 donation! Stay in your car and volunteers will load prepackaged produce into

your trunk. Market on the Move continues on the first Saturday of February, March, April and May. Organizers need volunteers to come at 7 a.m. to set up tables, package the veggies and put away tables afterward. Please text Lenna at 305-923-5362 or email lennajeffery@yahoo.com with questions or to volunteer. Tell your friends!

Missions Committee Seeks Volunteers

Do you have a couple extra hours to spare each month? Are you looking for an opportunity to serve others in our community? The St. Mark's Missions Committee has openings as we begin 2022. If you would like more information or have an interest, send your contact information to missions@umcstmarks.org.

A Merry Christmas for Families at Nash Elementary School



Our generous congregation members have, once again, made a real difference for a number of families at Nash Elementary. Principal Laura Esquibel reports the school was able to help 32 families, most of whom said there would have been no Christmas presents for their children without the gift cards they received. They were all very appreciative of St. Mark's loving kindness.

Thank you to everyone who donated cards or cash to purchase the cards that brought joy for so many children. We were able to give the principal 164 \$25 gift cards for a grand total of \$4,100. Well done, St. Mark's! (Pictured: Dr. Laura Esquibel, Nash principal, receives a gift bag containing 164 \$25 gift cards.)

End of Year ICS Food Update

Together in 2021, we donated 22,953 lbs. of food to the food bank at Interfaith Community Services. Thanks to the staff at ICS, the leadership team at St. Mark's, the generous St. Mark's family, Patricia and Robert Kittrell, and Carl Harrison. Collecting this much food does not come easily. It truly takes a village and involves hundreds of hours and hundreds of people. We helped so many people in need. Thank you so much!

Did you know that more than 100,000 people in Pima County do not get enough food to eat every day? We plan to collect food for our third consecutive year in 2022. Please help whenever you are able. Every donation makes a difference. For less than \$4, you can buy a jar of spaghetti sauce and a box of spaghetti. That is a meal for four people in need.

You can bring your food donations from 10-11 a.m. every Tuesday and Saturday to the church's north parking lot, or if that is not convenient, you can drop off your donations at the church office during normal business hours. How much food will we donate in 2022? Let's make it a big number!

Youth Ministry

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



St. Mark's youth group 2021-2022

Youth Group Calendar

January 9



January 23



January 30



February 13



January 29



February 6



Service Sunday Recap

You guys are seriously amazing! We had to move super-fast and split up the work, but we did it! In our two short hours together, you all baked and packaged more than 120 cookies and wrapped 115 pairs of socks! While we miss serving dinner at Primavera, it was so awesome to be able to have a day together and still help provide what we can! We will have more Service Sundays in the spring semester.



Love your neighbor as yourself
with '21-'22 Confirmation class



PRE-TEEN UPDATES!

4th & 5th
Graders

Sundays: 4-6pm
in Room 9!

No Meetings on
January 2nd &
January 16th

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January at Pre-Teens will be filled with exciting activities! While Spencer is on maternity leave, come hang out with Miss Julie & Pastor Kim for games, crafts, Bible stories, and more!

Invite a friend and don't forget good shoes & a jacket for outdoor games!



Welcome, Baby Sloane Olivia!

Our PreTeen coordinator, Spencer Noble-Taylor, welcomed baby Sloane Olivia Taylor at 12:44 a.m. Dec. 23, weighing in at 6 lbs. 11 oz., and 18 3/4 inches long. Congratulations to the new mama!



UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUTH GROUP SHORTS

If you don't follow our St. Mark's youth on social media, you should change that. We made some amazing videos while we decorated the Wesley House for Christmas. If you missed them, don't walk – run. Go check them out!



Youth Group Facebook



Youth Group Instagram

SOUTH DISTRICT NEWS

Our South District Youth have lots of fun events planned for this year, including TWO in the next few weeks! You do not want to miss our Winter Retreat over MLK weekend. The South District is taking over Mingus! Come for a relaxing and fun weekend in the (hopefully!!) snow. Only a few weeks later, we will meet back up with our awesome district friends for an amazing Super Bowl party.

CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation class is having a great time meeting on Sunday mornings. In December, we worked hard to get cookies and socks to the men at Primavera. In January, we will go on an awesome field trip to San Xavier. **Confirmation 2020-2021 class** is also invited, since we missed our field trip!



Epiphany Party

There ain't no party like an Epiphany Party! Celebrate the end of the Christmas season in the Wesley House! Meet from 4-6 p.m. while we celebrate those awesome Magi who celebrated Jesus!

South District Winter Retreat: Rest in God Jan. 15-17

Is it really winter without snow!? I mean, it is, but snow sure makes it more fun! Meet at the Wesley House at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 15 and we will drive up to Mingus Mountain Camp to meet with the other South District churches for an amazing weekend of fellowship, conversation, worship, and hopefully SNOW! Never been to Mingus? This will be a great chance for you to check out the awesome camp the United Methodist Church has right here in Arizona! Questions? Contact Rachel by text or at rachel@umcstmarks.org. Cost is only \$75, and scholarships are available!

Pretzel Prayers

Who knows the story of the pretzel? Rachel does! Come make some delicious pretzels while we talk about prayer. You can always be sure there will be some games involved, too.

National Puzzle Day

So many types of puzzles. So many. What kind or kinds will be at Youth Group to celebrate National Puzzle Day in style!? You will have to come to find out!

Day of Kindness pt. 1

National Random Act of Kindness Day is on Feb. 17. Join us on Feb. 6 to start our project to celebrate this awesome holiday! We will finish the project on Feb. 20, but we can't finish it unless we start it! Meet 4-6 p.m. at the Wesley House to get this awesome project ready. Rachel will sign for service hours for this one!

Super Bowl

We don't know yet who is playing in the Super Bowl! But we DO know that we love any excuse to party! We will drive down to Catalina UMC for an epic Super Bowl party. There will be awesome snacks, great friends, dodgeball, and games! Oh yeah, and the game will be on. Stay tuned for what time we will head down!!

SSP UPDATE



Great News! We got Week 2 (July 10-16) in Sunny San Diego, Calif. We will leave St. Mark's on July 8, have some fun bonding time in San Diego and be ready to work by the 10th. SSP does have new COVID policies for this year. If you have questions regarding those, please let Rachel know.

Registration is open now, but hurry! We only have a few spots left! Register at

<https://forms.gle/3bbmaAUM1sayLFyJ9>.

January Birthdays

- Jan. 2—*Liam DaDeppo*
- Jan. 9—*Zoe Newell*
- Jan. 9—*Isaiah Weiler*
- Jan. 28—*Annika Norine*



Welcome, New Members! Class of Fall 2021

Cut out this page and add to your church directory



Kitty Tobin and Mary Beth Barone

Kitty and Mary Beth are very active in the community, especially at the Sister Jose Women's Center, where homeless women can go eat, shower, do laundry, and enter a lottery for an overnight stay. They love their two dogs and a cat. Mark and Marjie Hrabec are their sponsors.



Karen Berry

Karen is a Navy veteran from Harrisonville, NJ. She enjoys pickleball and woodworking. Karen is sponsored by Judy Boroto.



Jeff and Sarah Dimond

Jeff and Sarah have already gotten involved with St Mark's by singing in the Chancel Choir. In fact, they met when they were both singing in the Catalina UMC choir here in Tucson! Jeff and Sarah are transferring from Roswell UMC in Georgia and are sponsored by Harold and Susan Putt.



John and Marie Jones

John is from Rawlins, WY and Marie is from Windsor, CO. They moved here four years ago, falling in love with Tucson while visiting Marie's parents. John works for the Arizona Department of Education, and Marie is active with Philanthropic Educational Organization and United Methodist Women. Greta Roberts is their sponsor.



Linda Martino and Jenny Mahvi

Linda and Jenny come to St. Mark's from a whopping ... 7 minutes away! Jenny is a home care nurse and Linda is a financial planner and advisor. They are sponsored by Jon and Laurie Schladwieler, whom they already knew!



Becky Cowart

Becky transferred her membership from St. Paul's UMC because she lives closer to St. Mark's. She is the mother of Courtney Robinson, who calls St. Mark's home along with her husband, Justin. Becky was married to the late Rev. Hal Cowart and plans to use her caregiving gifts in the Congregational Care ministries. She is sponsored by Alice Brown.

Do you or someone you know want to join St. Mark's UMC?

Have you been thinking about membership at St. Mark's and wondering how to get more information and then join? Pastor Lynn and Tricia Chester (administrative assistant for hospitality) will lead a Membership 101 class at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 6 and 13 in the church library. 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. To register, go to <https://umcstmarks.org/classes/exploring-membership>. If you have questions, leave a message at 520-297-2062 and you will be contacted.



January prayer requests

The St. Mark's Prayer Ministry Team provides monthly prayer requests for 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 under the "Ministries" tab, then "Congregational Care." Or if you are reading this online, follow this link: https://umcstmarks.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/monthlyprayerlist_01-22.pdf

St. Mark's Financial Performance

Here are the St. Mark's financial results, through November:

	Actual	Budget	Plus/Minus
Income	\$989,696	\$1,052,266	\$ (62,570)
Expense	938,056	1,024,412	86,356
Net Income	\$ 51,640	\$ 27,854	\$ 23,786

Results for the month of November reflect a \$9,633 loss; income was \$76,764 while expenses were \$86,397. Even though actual income is under budget year-to-date in 2021, it appears St. Mark's could end the year with a positive balance. Committees have done a wonderful job controlling expenses.

The 2022 stewardship campaign is over, but the church is still accepting pledge cards. As of Dec. 12, 238 cards have been returned totaling financial commitments of \$730,659, with about 20% of the cards including a pledge of services. Your willingness to "Come and See" will enable St. Mark's to continue many of its ministries and missions. Thank you so much for your support during these difficult times. If you have not yet pledged, it's not too late to submit your card. While the 2022 budget is in process, it has not yet been finalized. You can download a commitment card from the church website at <https://umcstmarks.org/giving/>. They may be dropped in the collection boxes during Sunday services or mailed to St. Mark's UMC, 1431 W. Magee Road, Tucson, AZ 85704. Thank you for answering the invitation to "Come and See."

Bill Zermuehlen, Finance Committee Chair

United Methodist Women News



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

- The St. Mark's United Methodist Women will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11 in rooms 17/18 and via Zoom. Our program will be about

TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network), a local organization that helps HIV/AIDS patients and families. St. Mark's has several people involved with helping TIHAN. This will be our opportunity to learn about TIHAN and possibly to help, too. All women of the church are invited. If you have questions or need a ride, please contact UMW President Clara Campbell (see church directory). If you are not a member and would like to connect with us, contact Kay Hayworth (see church directory).

- United Methodist Women Grace Circle is again meeting to continue its hands-on mission work in the community, supporting local and global UMW missions. The group meets the third Tuesday of every month except December. Members work on a project with a nonprofit organization each month. The next meeting is at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 18 in the church library. The group will gather for devotions before carpooling to Gap Ministries. For more information, contact Anita Winslow (see church directory).

Prayer Shawl Ministry Update

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has continued to knit or crochet despite the pandemic. We have gradually started meeting the last Saturday of each month. You might have seen some of our handiwork when Pastor Lynn blessed it on Nov. 21.

We make prayer shawls for our pastors' use for congregational needs, prayer shawls to donate to the local Veterans Hospital twice a year, red prayer shawls for our confirmands, baby blankets, 4" pocket prayer shawls, and 8" squares to be mailed to South Africa. In December, we donated 30 prayer shawls to the veterans and are in the process of sending about 100 squares to Africa.

Donations are always welcome and will be used to buy yarn. If you knit or crochet, we invite you to join us at 10 a.m. the last Saturday of every month in rooms 17/18. Contact Patricia Duryee at (see church directory).



PRAYER CORNER

We are a praying community at St. Mark's. Besides Sunday worship, you may submit prayer requests by email to prayerchain@umcstmarks.org. You may also submit via our online form at <https://umcstmarks.org/prayer-request>

Don Beene
Jared Bowman and family
Deb Cushman

Judy Drescher
April DuBoce
Keith and Mary Ann Glazier
Mary Sanders

Carol Underwood
Jackie Vickers
Sherri Wyland

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to:

- The family of Thelma Strang, especially her husband, Richard, on Thelma's passing in early December. A memorial service is scheduled for Jan. 7 at St. Mark's.
- The family of Peggy Harrison, especially her sons, Paul, Robert, and David and their families, on Peggy's passing on Nov. 24 after a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's. A memorial service is scheduled for Jan. 15 in the St. Mark's Fellowship Hall.
- Those who were close to John Stuhlmuller, who died Christmas Eve morning. Memorial service plans are pending.



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...

Many thanks for all your expressions of kindness and gratitude upon my retirement from St. Mark's as Chancel Choir director. It has been a joy and an honor to serve and to serve with this loving and giving congregation for the last 17 and a half years! You are a congregation that truly lives out its mission to change the world through Christ by caring for all people, and that has been a powerful and inspiring influence in my life. Even in my sadness, I'm encouraged and uplifted by the great joy of having served here and the family I have in St. Mark's.

Gratefully,
Elizabeth (Betsy) Schauer

Thanks to your generous donations, the 2021 Thanksgiving offering raised \$10,043. These donations will be sent to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), and 100% will go directly to provide supplies and aid for the those affected by the recent devastating tornadoes and to help those in need outside the United States. Thank you for your generosity!

Many thanks to everyone who participated in our Rise Against Hunger meal packing event on Nov. 14 at Dove Mountain. We packed 13,824 meals to feed those in need in our community. We are doing great work!

Altar Flowers

One of the ways our congregation serves the church is to provide altar flowers for Sunday worship. We have several openings this month 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.

Reflections

Happy New Year!

I am looking forward to so many new things this year!

I am looking forward to a new car. I ordered a new all-electric Mustang in September. Surely it will be delivered this year?!?

I am looking forward to a summer I ease into. Instead of landing in the July heat from the cool pines of northern Arizona, I look forward to moving gradually into the sweltering heat!

I look forward to meeting more St. Mark's people! And, I look forward to the day we will meet without masks. Not yet. Sadly, not yet. But I look forward to it later this year.

I am looking forward to new opportunities to change the world for Christ by caring for all people. We live in a hurting world. What do we offer that others need? It will be exciting to answer this together!

I am looking forward to deepening my own faith life. How can I pray more consistently? Discern God's voice better? Study Scripture more deeply? There's so much to do, and I look forward to it!

I don't know about you, but when I make resolutions in the new year, I rarely see them through a month, much less a year. This year, I choose to look forward to things instead. I choose to live my life with the end in sight—knowing that my time on Earth will end with a welcome into God's arms in Heaven. I choose to embrace what comes each and every day with grace and wonder. With that in mind, perhaps my new year will have a little less guilt from failing my resolutions and a lot more grace for myself and others. Perhaps I will discover the wonder of God's world when I embrace each day with anticipation.

Won't you join me? How can you commit to a year of grace and wonder? What can we discover together?

*See you soon,
Pastor Lynn*

Starting with the end in mind ...

Join us in the new year as we begin our year centered on what matters. After celebrating the coming of the Wise Men (Jan. 2), we will remember our baptism and what it means to be a baptized believer (and we will baptize some babies)! Then, we spend some time with the book of Revelation as we ponder the hope and endurance that we bring to a new year. See you Sunday!