

Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

Volume 62, Number 3

March 2, 2022



St. Mark's is DEBT-FREE!

Did you know that we carried a mortgage payment from our last building project? It's true. When we built the office wing many years ago, we ran short of funds and secured a mortgage to finish the project. We've been paying on it since. Over the years, we have talked about paying it off, or paying part of it. Mostly, we simply continued paying this mortgage as though it had become part of us.

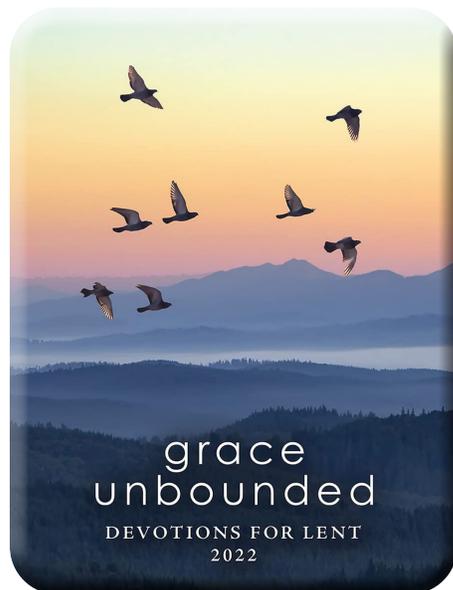
In February our final balloon payment was due, and we had choices to make: pay it off, refinance, take up a special offering, explore other options. Following the Finance Committee's unanimous recommendation, the Covenant Council met Feb. 13 (yes, Super Bowl Sunday!) and affirmed by vote that we pay it off. That Monday, Finance Chair Bill Zermuehlen and Pastor Stuart took our last mortgage payment of just over \$119,000 to the bank. Praise God!

This is a brave act. In a year when we are rebuilding and reopening and questioning what's next in a post-pandemic world, we choose not to be fainthearted, but to be brave with the resources you have given this church. It is a brave act because in making this choice, we have reduced our general reserves by nearly half, leaving us with enough money in our reserves to almost cover our expected budget shortfall this year. We make this brave choice knowing that God is good, and we will continue to both watch our expenses and trust in the blessings of our church and of our God.

We celebrated this milestone Sunday, Feb. 27 on the patio, with District Superintendent Matt Ashley supervising Pastor Lynn and Bill Zermuehlen burning the mortgage and then sharing in cake for all!



Lent is Here; We Can Help You With That



This Lent, we offer three ways to focus your attention on the grace that comes from the God we worship.

- Pick up a daily devotion book from the Narthex or church office. These books have an image to illustrate the Scripture, plus a traditional reading and question to ponder. The books cost \$2 each but are available to anyone who wishes to receive one.
- Read a weekly devotion from our staff. Staff members will share a weekly devotion, published by email on Wednesdays. Not on our regular weekly email list? Sign up to receive those by using the form on the Announcements page of our website, <https://umcstmarks.org/>, or emailing the office at info@umcstmarks.org.
- Watch a weekly video reflection from our pastors. Each Tuesday our social media platforms will publish a video reflection from one of our pastors. The Wednesday email will also include the link.

The Meaning of Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins with the observance of Ash Wednesday. This day kicks off the traditional season of fasting, repentance, moderation, and spiritual discipline that leads us to the celebration of Easter.

Ash Wednesday has ancient roots, but it wasn't included in the United Methodist Book of Worship until 1992. If you don't remember observing it in your younger years, you are not alone!

Ashes have deep roots in the Hebrew Bible. Used on this day, they emphasize two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. As Christians we know that Jesus has overcome both of these through his death and resurrection.

We invite you to receive ashes this year as we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sins, and remembering who we are and who we can be.

Ashes will be offered two ways – at a morning drop-in time or during an evening service. At both, you will be offered ashes for your forehead or your hand, and we will spend time with Scripture and prayer. Reach out if you have questions.

6 - 9 a.m. Drop in when convenient
6:30 p.m. Service of Ashes
Wednesday, March 2
In the Sanctuary

United Methodist Women News



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

St. Mark's United Methodist Women will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 8, in room 17/18 and via Zoom. All women of the church are invited.

You don't have to be a member of UMW, or St. Mark's, or any church to participate. Please come (or log on) about 9:45 a.m. so we can greet each other and have some time together.

We will present the annual Prayer and Self-Denial Program, titled "Love, Justice and Service: Answering the Call." This program highlights the lay Order of Deaconess and Home Missioners that is administered by United Methodist Women. Our own Marjie and Mark Hrabec plan to be with us to talk about their deaconess and home missionary experiences. We will collect an offering during this program that will support the education and training of deaconesses and home missionaries – so bring money or a check payable to St. Mark's United Methodist Women (with a note "For Prayer and Self-Denial").

Questions? Need a ride? Contact UMW President Clara Campbell (see church directory). If you'd like the Zoom link, contact Kay Hayworth (see church directory) or leave a note in the United Methodist Women mailbox in the church office.

Just Where are Those Sunday Dinner Sales??

Remember when you could purchase soup, casseroles, a quiche and even a dessert on our patio, to fix for Sunday dinner and/or any other day of the week? Then IN with COVID-19 and OUT with Sunday Dinner Sales. Do you know where the money from those sales went? It went to scholarships for a conference-sponsored retreat called "Strength for the Journey," an outreach program of the HIV Caring Ministries. For 30 years, the retreat has offered an opportunity for people living with HIV "to focus on (their) own personal life journey and to explore ways in which they might enrich and strengthen themselves." –Linda Girard. This year's SFTJ will be in May and the tuition is \$225, which many hopeful participants cannot afford and, it goes without saying, organizers don't want to turn anyone away. VOILA! Scholarships! VOILA! Sunday Dinner Sales. Each camper pays \$120 and ... We, St. Mark's, helped pay for the scholarships for the balance! Each of you who participated helped send a person with HIV to SFTJ—the bakers and cooks paid for the ingredients, the labor of love, and as you enjoyed your dinner you were offering a blessing to a scholarship recipient! We aren't quite ready to start up the Sunday Dinner Sales, but we hope to have a hybrid opportunity to raise some scholarship money soon. In March! For "camp" stories talk to Betty Pickart, Paul Caseman, Linda Girard or Kathy Parrish, who attended as volunteer staff. (Apologies to anyone we've left out.) Total expenses for this year's SFTJ are about \$14,000.

HIV/AIDS task force members: Pat Small, Linda Walker, Sally Mettler, Mary Lu Kiracofe & Marcia Rostad

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 sign up at the Adult Spiritual Growth board on the patio Sunday mornings.

Choose a Lenten Study

The Adult Spiritual Growth Committee, leaders of the regular adult study groups, and individual class facilitators have selected a variety of Lenten-based studies to offer the congregation. There are many excellent studies available, as you will find here.

"Women at the Cross." Begins at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 10 in room 17/18 and continues on all Thursdays in March. Led by retired minister Helen Schindler. No study book is needed, but please bring your Bible.

This discussion centers on the women who were present at the cross as told through the four gospels. How many Marys were there? Were more women present than just the ones mentioned? Do we know what happened to any of them?

Christian book author Amy-Jill Levine writes that "women had been both supporters of Jesus and beneficiaries of his healings since the beginning of his public mission." Some of these women include Peter's mother-in-law, a hemorrhaging woman, a 12-year-old girl, a bent-over woman, and even a daughter of a Gentile woman. Jesus even "engages with a Samaritan woman at a well and with the daughters of Jerusalem on the way to the cross." It should be no surprise that women who loved and were touched by Jesus would gather during his greatest trial.

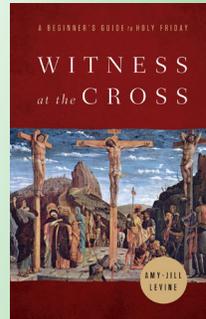
"Watching the Disciples, Learning From Their Mistakes," by Mary Jane Gorman. Begins at 10:30 a.m. Monday, March 7 at Mountain View Retirement Village. Led by Marge Sogn. EVERYONE WELCOME.

This Lenten study looks at the 12 disciples as they tried to follow Jesus and live the challenging life to which he had called them. Examining the mistakes of the 12 can help us assess our own discipleship to see where it may need strengthening. During these weeks of Lent, as we join the 12 in their on-the-job-training to become disciples of Jesus, we hope to find guidance for our pilgrimage.

"Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday," by Amy-Jill Levine.

Two opportunities to participate:

- Sharing/Family Life adult Sunday school, 9:30-11 a.m. in room 17/18 or via Zoom beginning March 6.
- Wednesday Morning Study Group, 10-11:30 a.m. in room 17/18 or via Zoom beginning March 2.



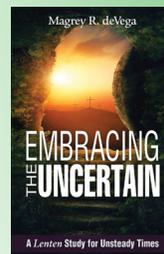
This six-week book study, with discussion questions related to each week's topic, also includes a weekly video. In this study, Levine brings to life the characters who the Gospels tell us were witnesses to the crucifixion. Each evangelist presents a distinct picture of the death of Jesus. Each portrays different individuals and groups of people at the cross; each offers different images and dialogues; and so from each, we learn

how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.

When the author discusses the texts that tell the story of Holy Friday, she connects them to history, other Scripture, and social context. The story of Jesus' death is not something we just read. We think about it, and we experience it; we hear the taunts of the soldiers, the priests, and the passersby even as we hear the famous "seven last words" from the cross. Please join in this experience!

Order your book or e-book through Cokesbury.com (<https://www.cokesbury.com/>) or your favorite online book vendor. Bookshop.org (<https://bookshop.org/>) supports local Tucson bookstores.

"Embracing the Uncertain - A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times," By Magrey deVega. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays, March 7 – April 11 at the Foothills Mall Barnes & Noble. Led by Marlyce Wright.



Uncertainty can be very uncomfortable. Many of us prefer stability and a predictable future to an unknown fate. We are wired to want control of our destiny. The reality is that in our fast-changing, unpredictable world there are few guarantees in life. It's those who are willing to embrace uncertainty and make the risky decision to follow Jesus despite the many

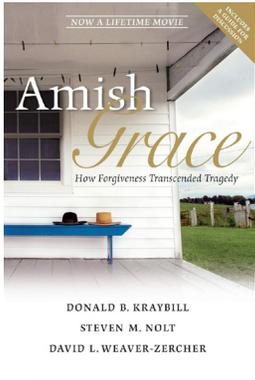
"unknowns" who will reap the greatest rewards. The author invites participants this Lent to engage and wrestle with life's uncertainties, not ignore them, by studying six post-Transfiguration, pre-Passion stories in the Gospels.

Please purchase your own book (about \$10) through Cokesbury or an online bookstore such as Bookshop.org, which supports local bookstores.

Open Minds Book Group

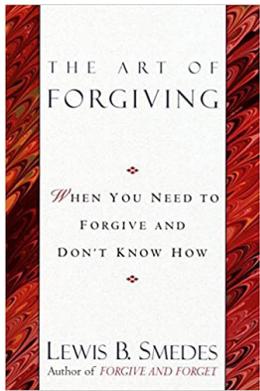
Friday, March 25, 9-10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Books may be borrowed from the Pima County Library or purchased (new or used) from book sellers such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or <https://bookshop.org>, which supports local bookstores. Co-leaders are Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban.



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

Coming in April: 'The Art of Forgiving'



It seems that human beings have always struggled to forgive. In Matthew 18, Peter asks Jesus if he must forgive his brother seven times. (The biblical number that represented wholeness and perfection was seven.) Jesus' reply was "...seventy times seven," indicating a number beyond calculation. Forgiving a wound inflicted unjustly is extremely difficult.

Join this four-session class based on Lewis Smedes' book, "The Art of Forgiving," on Thursday afternoons beginning April 28. More information will be available in the April edition of the Messenger.

Mark Your Calendar for Holy Week

We will start the observances with a Palm and Passion Sunday Cantata on Sunday, April 10.

Maundy Thursday will feature music with portions of our praise band, leadership from our Confirmation students, and a focus on the last meal Jesus observed with his disciples.



Good Friday will conclude our special week with a reflective service of Scripture and darkness, featuring music from the Celebration Singers and leadership from our Confirmation students.

All services will be livestreamed via our website or our YouTube page, <https://www.youtube.com/umcstmarksorovalley>.

Palm and Passion Sunday - 8:30 and 10 a.m. April 10
Maundy Thursday - 6:30 p.m. April 14
Good Friday - 6:30 p.m. April 15

Worship with us Easter Sunday!

Sunrise service will take place outdoors on the labyrinth, led by the youth.

8:30 and 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary will feature music from the Chancel Choir in a joyful celebration of the Risen Christ!

10 a.m. worship on the Labyrinth will be led by our Praise Team's musicians with all the energy of an Easter morning!

Join us!

Rainbow Fellowship April Mtg

Our Rainbow Fellowship will meet at 9 a.m. Sunday, March 20 in the church library. 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 if you have any questions.

Do You Like People? Church Growth & Hospitality Does, Too

The Church Growth & Hospitality Committee invites anyone who has a desire to actively serve on a committee that extends hospitality to all people. The major tasks of the committee include the:

1. Red Umbrella (Contact person: Barb Conway)

Greet everyone who comes to worship with a warm smile and ask if they need assistance.

2. Coffee Host (Contact person: Jan Webster)

Prepare and serve coffee between services on Sunday morning.

3. Logo Shop

The congregation has the opportunity to purchase items twice a year that promote St. Mark's UMC in the community.

4. New Member Luncheon

Prepare and serve a lunch to new members and their sponsors (suggested menus are provided).

If you believe you would like to serve in any of these areas or be on the committee, please contact Marge Sogn (see church directory).

Logo Shop is Back!



Our Spring Logo Shop will take place on Sundays, March 20 and 27; look for the table in the courtyard between services.

This is our spring opportunity to order embroidered St. Mark's items such as shirts. We'll open orders again in the fall. Printed logo items are always available through the church office.

Payment will be DUE for all items, even ordered clothing, at the time of purchase – so come prepared (with your cash, checks, or credit cards).

Parking Lot Sale Returns

The youth group's Parking Lot Sale is back! 7 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 19. Parking lot spaces can be rented for you to sell things yourself, or items can be donated for the youth to sell. Spaces are available to rent now, and donations will be accepted March 17-18. Contact Rachel for more information: rachel@umcstmarks.org or 520-297-2062.

Save the Date for Easter Event

The St. Mark's Easter Event is almost here; please plan to join us from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 9, on the west patio. In addition to our traditional Easter Egg Hunt there will be a cookie and cupcake walk and lots of fun games and prizes! Be on the hunt for more info coming soon. We will accept donations of cookies and cupcakes the week of April 3. For more information or to sign up to volunteer please contact Julie Eblen, Children and Family Ministries Coordinator at julie@umcstmarks.org.



Support Children's Sunday School Lenten Project

Children's Ministry is excited for Lent! This year, the Children's Sunday School Lenten project will help the Community Food Bank by collecting needed food items. The Sunday School children are excited and need your help! Starting on Sunday, March 6, the children will collect needed food items between Sunday services in the courtyard during Lent. Please see the following schedule for donating food items:

- March 6 - Peanut Butter
- March 13 - Cereal
- March 20 - Canned fruit, Canned vegetables, Canned soup
- March 27 - Canned tuna and chicken, Spaghetti O's, Ravioli, Chili
- April 3 - Canned tomato products, Spaghetti sauce, Spaghetti
- April 10 - Condiments, Rice (brown or white), Dried Beans

Estate and Planned Giving Seminar

The Endowment Committee is sponsoring an Estate and Planned Giving Seminar at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 13, in the Fellowship Hall. The presenters are from the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation. Gift Planning Officer Judi Smith and Executive Director Anne Green will provide valuable information regarding estate planning, giving tools, probate cost reduction, wills and trusts, and much more! The seminar is about an hour long, including time for questions and answers. Please plan to attend this informational event, which is also free!! Questions? Contact Endowment Committee Chair Renee Carasco (see church directory).

Missions Update

A significant portion of the monies received from your contributions to St. Mark's goes directly to support our missions partners. Did you know that we plan to support and actively work with almost 30 missions projects this year? Our partners cover a wide variety of support areas including:

- ⊗ Fighting hunger in Southern Arizona and beyond
- ⊗ Homelessness and housing assistance
- ⊗ HIV/AIDS assistance and support
- ⊗ Nash Elementary School
- ⊗ Job skills training
- ⊗ Domestic abuse support
- ⊗ Youth homelessness
- ⊗ Helping individuals in need to achieve more stable lives through various support programs
- ⊗ Helping those legally seeking asylum to transition into our country
- ⊗ National and worldwide disaster relief aid through UMCOR
- ⊗ St. Mark's youth and adult mission trips
- ⊗ Fuente de Vida church In Agua Prieta, Sonora
- ⊗ Habitat for Humanity
- ⊗ The Methodist on-campus ministries at The University of Arizona
- ⊗ Grief support for youth and young adults

With the rising costs of housing, food, and other household expenses, individuals and families are struggling more than ever to survive. The number of people seeking the types of assistance we are supporting continues to increase. Together, with your help and support, we are doing what God asks us to do.

Matthew 25:40: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Peace.
John Yost
Missions Committee Chair

Tickets are on sale for ICS's biggest fundraiser of the year, Empty Bowls, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 5 at the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, 1288 W. River Road. Tickets start at \$25 and include one handcrafted bowl and samples of soups, breads and dessert. Purchase tickets at <https://p2p.onecause.com/emptybowls2022>.

ICS Food Collection Update

We started collecting food for the northwest food bank at Interfaith Community Services when the pandemic hit us in early 2020. As we begin our third year of collecting and donating non-perishable food items, know that St. Mark's has donated well over 40,000 lbs. of food and made a significant difference in helping those suffering from food insecurity in our community. Thank you for your generosity! With the increasing costs of housing and food, more and more people find themselves needing assistance from food banks. We plan to continue this wonderful ministry, and all donations big or small are helpful and appreciated. You can bring your donations between 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays or Saturdays to the north parking lot of the church, or you can drop them off at the church office during its business hours.

Most-Needed Food Bank Items

- ✓ Peanut Butter (14 oz. jar)
- ✓ SpaghettiOs, Chili or Ravioli in Pop-Top Cans
- ✓ Canned Meat, Tuna, Chicken
- ✓ Instant Mashed Potatoes
 - ✓ Rice/Dry Beans
- ✓ Dry Pasta (Spaghetti, Macaroni, Macaroni and Cheese)
 - ✓ Spaghetti Sauce
 - ✓ Breakfast Cereal
 - ✓ Stuffing Mix

Market on the Move is March 5

Market on the Move will offer 60 lbs. of fresh produce for a \$10 donation from 9-11 a.m. March 5 in the south parking lot. Stay in your car and we will load the prepack-



aged produce into your trunk. We need volunteers to come at 7 a.m. to set up tables, prepackage 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!

Youth Ministry

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



Youth Group Calendar grades 6-12

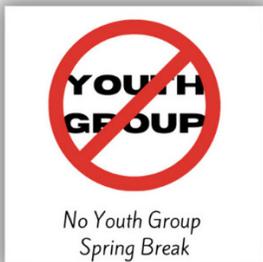
March 6



March 13



March 19



March 20



March 27

Thank you, Trader Joe's!

Thank you to Trader Joe's for generously donating the paper bags we used for our Curbside Pickup Food Drive. These bags made it possible for us to run this awesome mission project that connected people from Oro Valley, Marana, and beyond.

Procrastinator's April Fool's

Do you know the history of April Fool's Day!? Rachel didn't, until she was looking up ideas on amazing ways for the youth to celebrate. Come find out more and have a fun, foolish party with your favorite friends from St. Mark's!



PRE-TEEN UPDATES!

4th & 5th
Graders

Sundays: 4-6pm
in Room 9!

No Meeting on
March 20th!

HAPPY MARCH!



March 6th:
What's Lent?

March 13th:

Lucky Pre-Teens.



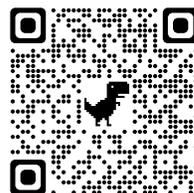
March 27th:
March Madness!

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



Want to know up-to-date youth info?

Check out our social media!



Facebook



Instagram



RE-CAP

Curbside Pickup Food Drive

You guys make missions so much fun! Our Curbside Pickup Food Drive was AMAZING! You guys worked together with the community to collect 258 pounds of food! Good work! We asked you to push for the Interfaith Community Services "Lotsa Pasta" drive and you really showed up! 65 pounds of pasta and 62 pounds of sauce! AMAZING!



SOUTH DISTRICT NEWS



Our Super Bowl Party was SO MUCH FUN! From throwing giant burritos at each other, to some super competitive dodgeball and basketball and of course

the pizza, we had a great time hanging out with kids from other South District churches and can't wait for our spring event; get ready to DEFY the odds!

CONFIRMATION

The six students in this year's Confirmation class have been learning so much every week! They also do a great job of asking all of the hard questions, and they try to stump Rachel each and every week. This is the time in our year where Rachel is always surprised at how fast things are flying, and how fast Confirmation Sunday is approaching!

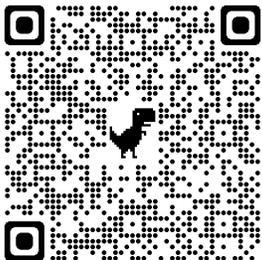


SSP UPDATE

July 8-16

St. Mark's will travel to San Diego, CA for Sierra Service Project this summer. We will leave St. Mark's on July 8, have some fun

bonding time in San Diego and be ready to work July 10-16. SSP does have new COVID policies for this year. If you have any SSP questions, please let Rachel know. Registration is open now, but hurry! We only have a few spots left! Register at the QR code or at <https://forms.gle/3bbmaAUM1sayLFyJ9>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Caption THAT March 6

Ever have trouble coming up with a caption for your picture? Come see what happens when you get the captions FIRST and have to find the picture to match! Which team can come up with the best pictures? Wear your running shoes – things will be moving pretty quickly! If you have a device that can take and send pictures (e.g., a cell phone), you are welcome to bring it, but we will have some provided for each team.

Pi Day Eve March 13

Some holidays are just absolutely necessary to celebrate. One such holiday is Pi Day. Come celebrate Pi Day Eve with your favorite youth group! It will be a deliciously fun time!

High School Students Easter Sunrise Planning

6-7 p.m. March 13

Attention high school students! Join Rachel to start the ball rolling on planning our Easter Sunrise Service. (Don't worry, middle school students, you will be involved, too!) Bring your ideas and Rachel will bring the pizza! RSVP to Rachel so we get enough pizza.

Parking Lot Sale March 19

ALL HANDS ON DECK! Back by popular demand this year is the Parking Lot Sale! This is one of our biggest fundraisers, and it is SO MUCH FUN! We have super-early shifts and not-so-early shifts, and shifts for parents, too! The proceeds from this awesome fundraiser will be split between youth missions and the youth group. SSP students are required to work at least one shift. Sign up here!



Spring Break March 20

You will either be finishing your Spring Break, or beginning it – and OF COURSE you will all be so exhausted from all of your hard work at the Parking Lot Sale, so Rachel decided to give you the night off! This is the perfect time to either catch up or get ahead on all of that homework!

Movie Night March 27

Time to kick back, relax, and enjoy a movie! Wait – this is youth group! It definitely won't just be a normal movie night. How many movies can YOU watch in two hours!? Bring a friend and be ready for a fun movie night with the youth group!

March Birthday

March 6—*Mosese Hala'ufia*



Welcome, New Members! Class of Winter 2022

Cut out this page and add to your church directory



Leslie Entrekin

Leslie created and has been operating her specialty e-commerce website since 1998! She also enjoys many hobbies and has already been participating at St. Mark's at the Red Umbrella and Market on the Move. Leslie is sponsored by Lenna Burnham.



Kaye Baumgartner

Kaye is a retired teacher who moved to Tucson 15 years ago from Breckenridge, Colorado with her husband Rick. She enjoys traveling, the desert, ballroom dancing, and spending time with her family. Speaking of family ... Read on!



Karen Holesworth

Karen is a retired teacher who calls Tucson home! She and her husband, Chuck, live in Oro Valley. Karen loves music, dogs, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Yes, these two ladies are identical twins! Karen and Kaye are sponsored by Bill Purkey and Don Robinson.



Michael Wallace and Susan Chambers

Michael and Susan are both from North Carolina; Michael from Charlotte, and Susan from Asheville. Michael has an adult son in San Francisco and Michael and Susan spend their summer months on the Puget Sound. Susan is a very talented (retired) jewelry designer. Michael and Susan are sponsored by Ron and Linda Hill.

Get Ready for Your Closeup

It always baffled me that *no one* could see that (spoiler alert!) Clark Kent and Superman were one and the same. I mean, he changed his clothes, took off his glasses, and POW: Superman. Now, Batman – Batman makes more sense. Just about everything except his mouth is covered!

Here in the real world, we've been covering half our faces for ... too long. For those of us who are "face people," it's proven an additional challenge to remembering the names that belong to those faces.

Pretty soon (fingers crossed) we'll be able to truly meet face-to-face again! Let's take advantage of that and celebrate with a new pictorial church directory. So much has changed in the past two years, let alone since 2016, when we last published a pictorial directory!

On 3 consecutive Sundays in March, photographer Kristin Hedlund will take family and individual portraits on campus between services for the directory. You can sign up for a 5-minute time slot on SignUp Genius (look for the link in the Friday e-blast) or by calling the church office at 520-297-2062. If you are unable to make it to campus, you can email your favorite, recent picture to info@umcstmarks.org.

If you are interested in being a volunteer on this project, contact Tricia in the front office.

--Tricia Hill, Administrative Associate

McDougal Street West Concert Returns This Month

The Peter, Paul and Mary tribute band, McDougal Street West, returns to St. Mark's at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 31, in the Sanctuary. Come enjoy some folk music with this retired Methodist pastor from the Prescott Valley area and his musical group!

***'Learn. Love. Grow Together.'* on Saturday, April 2**

"Out beyond ideas of right and wrong there is a field. I'll meet you there." Rumi

The United Methodist Church is not of one mind regarding full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons. Our community is still in a place where we do not all agree. We have our differences based on confusing and perhaps hurtful experiences. We hope that we can take a faith journey together to try to understand those differences.

How did this dilemma even get into the Book of Discipline? What does the Desert Southwest Conference and the Western Jurisdiction have to say about it? What are some of the medical and mental health aspects of which we need to be aware? How have some of our own friends and members been personally affected?

Please join us from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 2, in the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary. We will present information that will give us biblical and theological perspectives on this topic. And some of our own members will tell their experiences and their personal journeys.

The people of St. Mark's UMC are people of God who are called to be leaders in our community. As leaders we all have things to Learn. We are told by Jesus to Love. We are expected to be in a community where we can Grow Together.

We hope you will cross your heart-bridge and meet with us in that field for a loving experience together.



9 a.m. Opening remarks
9:10 A Theological Perspective
10 a.m. A Medical Perspective
10:45 Break
11 a.m. Personal Perspectives
11:45 Closing Worship with Communion

Sign up on the Adult Spiritual Growth registration page or on the ASG Board in the courtyard.

A Word from the Lay Leaders on 'Learn. Love. Grow Together.'

On our website we say that "St. Mark's is a welcoming community that embraces ALL people."

Have you thought about what that means? At the very least, it means we share our pews with new people and tell them where the coffee is. At a deeper level, we see people as fellow travelers on this journey we call life. The problem is that when someone is different from us, we may be reluctant to walk on the same path.

How do we get over that? First of all, we can focus on all the ways we are the same. For example, we are all children of God. Secondly, we can look at our differences in the context of trying to understand how the differences affect those whom we consider "different" – what it means for someone to be different from the majority of the people who surround them.

We have an opportunity to explore these options with respect to individuals who consider themselves part of the LGBTQ+ community. The "Learn. Love. Grow Together." Team is offering a workshop called "A Conversation for All" beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 2. You can register on the Adult Spiritual Growth page located on the St. Mark's website or on the bulletin board in the courtyard on Sunday mornings. We hope to see you there.

Lay leaders
Don Booth
John Cecilia
Brenda Hunter

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>

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 and friends of Bill Peters, especially his beloved Susie Eldridge, on Bill's death shortly before Christmas.
- The family and friends of Don Beene, especially his wife, Ellen, after Don's passing on Feb. 21 from cardiac issues.



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

Dear Church Family...

On behalf of Arizona Repertory Singers and the UA Symphonic and Arizona Choirs, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to St. Mark's for hosting our concert on Feb. 25. It was a joy to share our music and we are so grateful for the efforts of everyone who made it possible – Kathy Deason for making all the arrangements, Kim Ogle for welcoming and introducing everyone, Paul Simpson for taking care of the sound and amplification, and Tony Lovaglio and Johnny Slovak for moving/arranging all the equipment for the event. Thank you for this opportunity. It was wonderful to see our St. Mark's friends in attendance too!

Sincerely, Elizabeth Schauer

Thank you very much for your generous in-kind donation to the Interfaith Community Services Food Banks (10,518 lbs. July-December 2021).

As you join the collective efforts of our organization and other caring donors who share your enthusiasm to help, you provide more than vital food for those in need. You provide the nourishment of hope and connection. This is so very essential to surviving the struggles many of our neighbors face.

The ICS Food Banks also serve as a door that leads recipients to other services ICS provides, supporting them in achieving stable, healthy and independent lives.

Thank you for being a key part of the solution as we work to alleviate hunger for our community's most fragile citizens.

With gratitude,
Tom McKinney
Chief Executive Officer
Interfaith Community Services

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

Reflections

Have you moved before? Most of us have. One of my church members in Flagstaff lived in the house where he was born, but in between birth and death, he moved multiple times. No doubt you have, too. I moved to college, moved to seminary, moved to my first parsonage on Lynn Drive (seriously!), moved into the first house with my husband ... the list goes on! I was really good at packing and living with the bare essentials in dorm rooms and for summer jobs. Since then? Not so much. My husband loves to state that he moved to Illinois in a Geo Metro and after marrying me, moved back to Arizona in a semi. I claim it's both exaggerated and not all my fault!



wonder as we follow Jesus through the gospel of Luke, wondering how God moves and invites us to move as well. We will follow Jesus as he moves to the desert, past obstacles, over the fence, down the road, and of course, to the cross. Along the way, we will see how he welcomes children, shows regard for women, shares meals with un-savory characters, and seeks out people who have lost their way.

There are many ways you can observe this Lent, as you can see from the opportunities in this newsletter. However you choose to join in, I pray that you encounter the unbounded grace that God offers to us.

Our Lenten reflections this season will invite us to wonder about the ways that God moves, even if God doesn't pack up boxes and call a moving van! This season we will journey with grace and

*See you soon,
Pastor Lynn*