

Messenger

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



Congratulations, John Yost!

John Yost, our Missions chair, usher, and always-eager-to-help volunteer, received the Arizona Governor's Volunteer Service Award on May 2. In an email, John informed some of us that he had been selected to receive the award, and sent this statement:

I am honored to announce that I have been selected to receive The Arizona Governor's Volunteer Service Award this year. ... Thanks be to God for giving me the skills and good health to do this work that I have been called to do. I am blessed to serve with such great people at St. Mark's and beyond. This award is a team award for everyone that has helped and participated along the way. Thank you! I cannot wait to see what is next for St. Mark's as we continue on this incredible journey to serve others, starting with helping refugees to resettle in Southern Arizona.

At the beginning of the pandemic, while most of us were lamenting over being isolated, John's approach was that we may not be able to meet together, but we can still serve. From that day to the present, John and Carla Yost have been in the church parking lot almost every Tuesday and Saturday, collecting food to take to Interfaith Community Services, which provides a food pantry and other services for those who are struggling. When the Yosts can't be there on food collection days, other church members help with the collection. John's nomination to the governor's office came directly from ICS.

St. Mark's has always been a congregation of caring people who focus on mission and justice. Thanks to past and present leadership, along with a generous budget, the Missions Committee has helped an innumerable amount of people, both local and worldwide. John humbly refers to the Arizona Governor's Volunteer Service Award as a "team award." We thank God for opportunities to serve, and for John's example.



Blessings to all who serve, and congratulations, John! -Pastor Kim Ogle

Survey Results

Many thanks to all of you who completed the congregational survey in February. The pastors, staff and members of Covenant Council have been looking at the results to see how they can shape the way we do our ministry. Here are some of the things we learned.



We started out by asking for demographic information. It was unsurprising that most of the respondents were at least 65 years old – we can see that just by looking at who is in the pews. However, we did get answers from all age groups. There were only a couple of differences in answer trends between the age groups, which will be pointed out later.

Because community worship plays a large role in developing the sense of family and connection that is important in a healthy church, we wanted to learn why people are worshipping less

frequently. It turns out that more than 75% of those who answered attend church at least two or more times a month! This high response from frequent worshippers indicates that there is a tie between worshipping frequently and participating in other activities in the church – including surveys. We will use the more critical/negative responses from the frequent worshippers as hints about why people worship less frequently.

Many of our questions focused on the activities that bring people together: worship, committee and volunteer work, and classes/discussions. They also examined the balance between in-person gatherings and online gatherings.

We tend to forget that St. Mark's was offering a livestreamed worship service before we suspended in-person worship at the beginning of the pandemic. Going to online-only certainly forced the issue, but it means that most have experienced both options. The largest difference between age groups was with respect to the online vs. in-person worship answers: Those

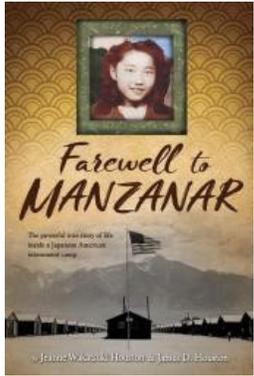
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Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

AAPI Zoom Book Discussion

As part of Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we will offer a discussion of the book, ***Farewell to Manzanar***, by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James Houston, at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 17 via Zoom. Login information will be sent shortly before class.



This is the true story of Jeanne Wakatsuki who, at age 7, was sent to live in the Manzanar internment camp in 1942. Jeanne writes how she struggled to adapt to forced detention and what day-to-day life was like inside the camp. When the war ended, Jeanne again had to adapt to life in L.A., where she continued to be demeaned and oppressed.

It has been 80 years since this dark chapter in America occurred. Overnight Japanese Americans became the enemy and were told to take only what they could carry to the internment camps. Join us to discuss this firsthand recollection of what that was like for a little girl.

Please purchase the book on your own or check with your neighborhood library. Facilitated by Joylee Gathings.

Parables Study Continues

Sharing/Family Life Adult Sunday School continues with the study on the many parables taught by Jesus. This hybrid class meets 9:30 to 11 a.m. Sundays in Room 17/18 or by Zoom. This study continues each Sunday through July 24, but there is no class on May 29 and July 3. If you choose to attend online, please contact Terry Majewski (see church directory) or Rick Farnsworth (see church directory) for Zoom login instructions. This study is always open to new participants, so please stop by and attend one or more of the sessions. It is a great way to interact with others who share the same desire to connect with God.

ASG Summer Plans are Heating Up

The Adult Spiritual Growth Committee is refining plans for summer studies and get-togethers. Ideas range from off-site get-togethers to share God's word and converse about our journey with Christ; a relaxing, low stress study conducted at church in a cool, comfortable classroom; a possible new concept called TaCo (Talk and Converse) Tuesdays where we gather to discuss current issues, scriptures, challenges, and faith experiences while dining on tacos (of course); a movie or video shown in the Fellowship Hall where one can either sit in a chair or lie on the floor propped up on pillows while munching on popcorn; a musical evening filled with sing-alongs, solos, and ice cream. Have another idea? Contact committee chair Marcia Rostad (see church directory). These ideas and/or others will be decided in mid-May so please watch for the announcement in the June Messenger, the ASG Sunday board, and the weekly email blast.

All Classes Open Anytime to Everyone

All Adult Spiritual Growth classes, whether conducted by established groups or presented as short-term studies, are open to anyone interested in attending. The ASG Committee, class facilitators, and class participants welcome your presence and your contributions whether you attend one, some, or every class session offered.

→The established, regularly meeting groups sponsor different studies throughout the year that are announced ahead of time. If a certain study interests you, please feel free to register and attend that study. You will be warmly and openly received, and your attendance does not imply that you wish to join the group on a regular basis. Nor does the existence of a long-term study group suggest that it is closed to newcomers or that newcomers are unwelcome. Every group is enriched by the presence of others who bring life experiences and knowledge to the group process of spiritual growth.

→Short-term studies are usually 4-6 weeks long, are usually focused on specific themes, and can be related to holy events such as Advent and Lent. These classes provide special learning opportunities, an occasion to meet other people, and time to be in Christian fellowship. These popular studies are always open to everyone!

→Long-term studies require a commitment of personal time and class preparation. The design and conduct of most long-term studies do not accommodate "drop-in" attendees but consult with the study leader regarding any questions you may have.

The ASG Committee will soon encourage each study group to post the topics of discussion for each weekly session. If you are interested in attending a particular session, you may stop in the classroom or contact the class facilitator in advance. Remember, you and your contributions are welcomed.

Adult Spiritual Growth studies are selected and presented with you in mind and the ASG committee invites your suggestions and ideas to further improve opportunities for study.

Marcia Rostad
Chair, ASG

Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in Arizona

Too often the Church is split between those who pray and those who march. Yet without contemplation, those advocating for justice grow cynical and weary. Without social engagement, those who pray become complacent and self-serving. We need contemplative practices and prophetic witness to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ in this post-modern world.

This year's Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in Arizona brings both dimensions of our faith together in a balance rhythm of solitude and community. In a beautiful desert setting, faculty presenters Vance Ross and Hwa-Young Chong will inspire and challenge us in our spiritual journey. Lay and clergy participants will gather for worship and share in the silence as they listen for the Word to be spoken. Small groups ("listening circles") provide space for checking in and sorting through life's complexities.

To learn more about this year's Academy and to register, follow this link: <https://dscumc.org/arizona-five-day-academy/>. Registration deadline is Aug. 15, so hurry to reserve your spot. For more information, contact Jerry Haas (jndhaas@gmail.com). Some scholarships are available.

(Survey Results continued from page 1)

younger than 65 participate via online worship more often than those who are older. Even so, more than 53% of all the respondents will choose to join online worship at least part of the time, and even 50% of those 65 and older will choose to worship online at least some of the time. People also indicated that participating in classes and committee meetings via Zoom is an important option. The task now for leadership is to use the more detailed answers to continue to improve both in-person and online gatherings, including discernment to determine when it is necessary to offer both options, or when only one or the other is sufficient.

We especially appreciated the "long answers." These demonstrated that just like any family, we do have our differences. For example, one person wondered why we have to sing every single verse in a hymn, while another person wondered when we would start singing all the verses again! (FYI: The pastors choose the hymns and specific verses depending on the sermon topic and how long the service is estimated to last. So, sometimes all verses are sung, and sometimes only a few verses are sung, even within a single service.) One thing we can do to help reconcile our differences is do a better job of explaining why we are doing things, knowing that evolving and adapting to change is challenging.

Many of you suggested we need to do more in-person activities. This creates a bit of a catch-22 situation. Those who are already involved in leading in-person activities are extremely busy and have limited time to initiate anything new. In other words, we can't offer new in-person activities if there are no people to offer them!

Finally, we have distributed the long answers to the people responsible for the activities referenced in the answers (answers were all made anonymous). The answers will be taken into consideration as they plan.

Again, many thanks for helping leadership explore the thoughts and feelings of our church family.

Don Booth, John Cecilia, Brenda Hunter, Harold Putt, Stuart Salvatierra, Bill Zermuehlen

P.S. Because the answers were anonymous, will the person who expressed an interest in serving on the Endowment Committee please contact the office? In fact, would anyone who wants to volunteer for church work at any level please contact the office? Much of the work of the church is done by volunteers, and we want everyone to have an opportunity to serve.

Coffee With the Pastor

Join Pastor Lynn for Coffee With the Pastor. Come with questions or just to chat! 9-11 a.m. Thursday, May 12 at the Foothills Mall Barnes & Noble café.



Worldwide Christian Support Task Force Update Russian Priest Speaks Out Against Ukraine Invasion

In 2016, Russia passed laws to repress various religious groups. Those same laws were also enforced in areas occupied by Russia. That includes the east of Ukraine and Crimea. There is no reason to expect that the laws won't be applied in other newly controlled areas.



The laws force religious groups to register. A list for the eastern province of Luhansk has 195 approved groups. None are Protestant Christians. In June 2021, three Protestant churches were banned and other buildings were taken over by the government.

The U.S. Committee on International Religious Freedom collects facts. It found that in Crimea, Russians continued to enforce the laws on religion. This resulted in prosecution of peaceful religious activity and bans on groups that were legal under Ukrainian law.

Protestants in Ukraine are preparing for further persecution if Russia expands control. The president of the Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary said churches in the west have already agreed that they will open their homes and churches to Christians from the east. He also said that Baptist churches in the east would go underground if Russia took control of their area.

In Russia, the Rev. Ioann Burdin, Resurrection of Christ Orthodox Church rector, wrote an open letter condemning the invasion as a "real war" and a "Russian invasion." He was found guilty of "discrediting the use of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation" and fined 35,000 rubles. This is about \$500.

Prayer: Lord, bring peace to Ukraine. Open the hearts of the leaders of Russia and areas of Ukraine under Russian control that they would not restrict the ability of believers to worship God freely.

Questioning the Death Penalty

The United Methodist Church's General Board on Church and Society has made the statement that "We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore, and transform all human beings." It goes on to say, "When governments implement the death penalty (capital punishment), then the life of the convicted person is devalued and all possibility of change in that person's life ends." The death of anyone, especially the victim of a crime, is tragic. But a second tragedy does nothing to remedy the first. In this season of repentance, the Desert Southwest Conference Prison Reform Task Force is hosting a Zoom series on "Questioning the Death Penalty" featuring Sister Helen Prejean, the author of "Dead Man Walking," "The Death of Innocents," and "Where Justice and Mercy Meet." This series began at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 28 (sessions are recorded), and continues for the following four Thursdays. Sister Helen Prejean will join us May 19. Please register for this Zoom event at https://dscumc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rMqIYAVBSoeJhWIUGusYBQ. Register through this link, not St. Mark's.

Sunday School Food Drive

THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts!

The Sunday School children and teachers were overwhelmed by the generosity of the congregation's donations to their Lenten food drive project. This project was chosen for the Sunday School kids because children are familiar with the idea of collecting food. The older children especially have an understanding that some families do not have the abundance that their family has. The Sunday School kids helped to prepare for the food drive by coloring pictures that were used on the food boxes and posters. The teachers used the weekly Bible lessons during Lent to connect Jesus' ministry to the food drive. The food drive helped the Sunday School kids understand that we were building on Jesus' ministry by helping and caring for those in need. The kids and their teachers had a great time doing the food drive. Each Sunday, the kiddos held their food drive signs and greeted/thanked congregation members who

donated food items. After each Sunday, the older kids (third through fifth grades) counted the food items. During the six weeks of Lent, they collected 1,200 individual food items for the Community Food Bank. The children (preschool - fifth grade) collected peanut butter, cereal, canned fruit and veggies, canned meat, pasta and sauce and rice and beans. As a bonus, each week the children gained a little confidence in their task of collecting the food. The congregation's kindness and generosity made it easy for the kids to feel a part of the greater church family. It is our goal to teach and model for the children of St. Mark's how to be Jesus' hands and feet in our world. The food bank driver who picked up the donations each week was more than a little surprised by our efforts and expressed his gratitude on behalf of the food bank and the many people / families that they serve. A special "thank you" to Tony Lovaglio for his generous help moving the very heavy boxes from the courtyard into the office each week.

We Are On a Roll With God!



Join us from 5-8 p.m. July 13-15 for a "Food Truck party" – On a Roll With God including dinner and programming for all ages. Everyone is invited – whether you are young, old, retired, still working or have children, we invite you

to this year's **Vacation Bible School** with a twist. Each evening will begin with a themed dinner starting at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. (Dinner will be prepared by members of the congregation – there will not be actual food trucks!) Following dinner the children will break off to enjoy music, Bible stories, crafts and games. Adults will have their own opportunities for group studies and fellowship during this time. Be on the lookout for information on how to register. Registration for children (3 years old and potty trained through fifth grade) will be \$20 per child with a max of \$40 per family. We will collect a freewill donation for dinner, and adult programs will be free of charge. So, invite your friends, neighbors and family and come for dinner and fellowship and stay for our programs! We can't wait to see you at our Food Truck Party – On a Roll With God! For more information or to sign up to volunteer, contact Julie Eblen at julie@umcstmarks.org.

This year's **Easter Event** was a big success! On April 9 the west patio was full of color, laughter and families. About 150 people (50+ children) gathered for traditional egg hunts, fun games and prizes, Easter crafts, a photo booth and an inflatable obstacle course. As the music played, children of all ages hoped to win the yummy cupcakes and cookies that were generously donated by the St. Mark's congregation. (Everyone left with cupcakes or cookies!) Thank you to the dozens of volunteers who helped make this event so wonderful.



Summer Choir Opportunity

Chancel and Celebration Singers choirs do not meet in the summer, but we do have a Summer Choir that is open to anyone who would like to be part of it. We do not meet in separate rehearsal during the week, but practice for 30 minutes the Sunday that we sing. No introits or prayer responses, just an anthem. We sing pieces that take less time to prepare. If you would like to be part of this choir, please join us at 8 a.m. the first or third Sundays of the month in the choir room. We welcome all who want to sing.

Sondra Franks, director





Church & Society

May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month!

In August 2021, our Covenant Council approved implementation of the St. Mark's UMC Racial Justice plan, which strives to make our church a beacon of racial justice and compassion. Pastors, staff and committees will use nationally designated cultural heritage months as a time to celebrate people from other cultures and to listen to their stories. Join us as we pay tribute to our Asian American Pacific Islander siblings in May.

World War II Japanese American Relocation and the Catalina Highway

It's a part of U. S. history that is often overlooked: internment of Japanese Americans during WWII. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, an executive order allowed the military to designate areas where it could remove people whose loyalty could be questioned. The area the military designated included all of California, most of Oregon and Washington, and Southern Arizona. The population of concern were all residents of Japanese descent, about 2/3 of whom were U.S. citizens. They moved whole families with small children. These people were sent to hastily built camps – most of which were in desolate areas of the West. The Army constructed temporary buildings with no insulation and lacking the usual amenities, and the perimeter was guarded with barbed wire and armed soldiers. There were two in Arizona. One, Poston, was near the Colorado River and the other was on the Gila River Indian Reservation in Pinal County. While a challenge was made based on Article V of the Constitution, it was overruled by the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled the relocation was legal. In the 1980s the internment was overturned based on the 14th Amendment, and surviving internees were awarded reparations.

While almost all the Japanese Americans quietly accepted the commands enforced by armed soldiers to go into relocation, a few including Gordon Hirabayashi challenged the constitutionality of internment based on race or ancestry. As a result, he was sentenced to a different kind of imprisonment.

In 1937 a prison camp was built in the Catalinas to house federal prisoners, who provided labor to build the highway to the top of the Santa Catalinas. With the start of World War II these prisoners included conscientious objectors and Japanese Americans protesting the Japanese American relocation, including Gordon Hirabayashi. The buildings have long since been removed, and the area is now a campground. In 1999 the site was renamed the Gordon Hirabayashi Campground, and there are exhibits relating to this history. It can be visited near milepost 7 on the Catalina Highway. It wasn't until 1987 that Gordon Hirabayashi's case was overturned.

*Dorothy Montgomery
Church and Society Committee*

Movie Night: 'The Half of It'

Church and Society is hosting a movie night at 6:30 p.m. May 23 in the Fellowship Hall. The movie, "The Half of It," was directed by Alice Wu and features a girl who has immigrated from China with her family. It is a coming-of-age story about friendship and finding a path through high school. It touches on a number of issues that being an Asian American in a small northwest town faces and also brings up some LGBTQIA issues.

This comedy is rated PG-13 for a scene with teenage drinking. It is a light-hearted movie that is also heartwarming. It is appropriate for teenagers and adults. Please join us for the movie and some popcorn!

Racism and the AAPI Community

Rev. John Oda, who directs the UMC's Asian American Language Ministry Plan said, "The United Methodist Church has a moral obligation to be vocally and visibly outraged at [the] precipitous rise in violence and hatred against the Asian American community." A total of 10,905 hate incidents targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were reported between March 19, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2021, according to research released this month by the nonprofit group Stop AAPI Hate. The majority of incidents concerned women, and 16% involved physical assault, the group found. The history of racism against Asians in the US dates back to the 1800s, says Doris Chang, associate professor at New York University who studies racism's impact on the AAPI community. She points to the 19th Century recruitment of single men from China for cheap labor in American mines, fishing boats and railroad construction. "They were willing to take jobs working in terrible conditions, making poor wages. As the [U.S.] economy worsened, they were eventually seen as a threat to white men in terms of a threat to their jobs and a threat to their livelihoods," Chang explained. "We saw even then in the late 1800s these explosions of anti-Asian violence. Eventually ... it led to the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which was the first piece of legislation that officially barred immigration or limited immigration on the basis of one's race." Chang says violence toward Asian Americans occurs in cycles punctuated by dormancy. Asian people are often "welcomed in this country as long as we are seen as useful to the larger American project," she said. "During times of social, political, economic instability, then we are marginalized again and seen as a 'perpetual foreigner' and therefore a threat to national security."

John C. Yang, president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice said, "Unfortunately, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders often are invisible to the public." However, Yang also said, "The support of our allies representing diverse communities of color and diverse faith communities has meant a great deal."

As United Methodists, we "accept the freedom and power God gives [us] to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves" as integral parts of our Christian baptism and life of discipleship. For additional information, visit the UMC's Discipleship Ministries web page: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/a-call-to-stop-anti-asian-racism>, visit the St. Mark's Racial Equity web page: <https://umcstmarks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/AAPI.pdf>, or register for the upcoming Zoom book discussion "Farewell to Manzanar," the true story of Jeanne Wakatsuki who, in 1942 at age 7, was sent to live in the Manzanar internment camp: <https://umcstmarks.org/classes/adult-spiritual-growth-opportunities/>.

*Kathy McCasland
Racial Equity Advocates*

Missions Update

- In partnership with Tucson Refugee Ministry, we are beginning to get involved in helping refugees resettle into Southern Arizona. Many of these incoming refugees are not befriended by an American, let alone by a caring Christian. More than 50 members of our faith community have expressed an interest in serving already! There are lots of different opportunities to participate in whatever available time you have. It is not too late if you are interested in getting involved. To learn more, contact John Yost through the church directory or at missions@umcstmarks.org.
- With funds generated by our church members contributions, the Missions Committee sent a check for \$2,500 to Our Family Services in April. In addition, our donation has been matched by another donor! Our Family Services is dedicated to helping to fight homelessness for individuals and families in Southern Arizona through a variety of support programs and assistance. With the increasing cost of housing, more and more people are struggling to remain in their current housing.
- Thanks to the congregation, we raised a total of \$9,624.37 from our Easter offering! Of that, \$6,416.25 will go to Rise Against Hunger to support a future meal packing event. This means our faith community will send thousands of meals to people at risk of starvation overseas. The remaining \$3,208.12 goes to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona to feed the hungry right here in our community. Thank you for your generosity!

John Yost, Missions Committee Chair

Attention all green thumbs! One of our St. Mark's Mission partners, **Tu Nidito**, whose mission is to see no child grieves alone, is calling for **three volunteers** to help plant in their garden. This project will take place 8-10 a.m. Thursday, May 12 at Roger and Mountain. If you wish to volunteer, please email missions@umcstmarks.org.

Primavera Meal Teams are gearing up for the summer! Taking reservations for Saturday, May 14 and Saturday, July 9. The June slot is taken as is July 30. Second and fifth Saturdays throughout the rest of the year are open for sign ups on Sign Up Genius at <https://tinyurl.com/PrimaveraMeals>.

Food Donation Update

We are in our third year of collecting and donating food to the northwest food bank at Interfaith Community Services. Hundreds of people have participated in this mission project and St. Mark's has made a significant difference in helping those suffering from food insecurity in our community. Thank you very much!

With the increasing cost of food, gas, and housing, more people are turning to the food banks for additional assistance. Your donations are needed and appreciated. You can bring your donations between 10 and 11 a.m. any Tuesday or Saturday to the church's north parking lot or if it is more convenient, you can leave them at the church office during its business hours. Items most needed:

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



Market on the Move



St. Mark's will host the last Market on the Move for this season 8-10 a.m. May 7. (Volunteers need to arrive at 7 a.m.) Drive in the La Cañada entrance, follow the signs, and we will put the veggies in your trunk or wherever you want them. Exit onto Magee. Thank you for your patronage this season. Shalom.

Mission Partner Spotlight

Do you know of an under-represented adult who needs to earn more money to support themselves and/or their families? Do you know someone who is working for low wages? If you do, learn more about **JobPath**. JobPath is a workforce development agency that works through short term degrees and certificates in specific areas of health care, industrial trade and information technology fields, partnering with community college and other training facilities. It not only helps with tuition but gives other financial support, coaching, and case management during the students studies, to help the students succeed. Please check out the JobPath website for information about the specific fields of study and/or call Christine Hill at 520-324-0402 or email at chill@jobpath.net.

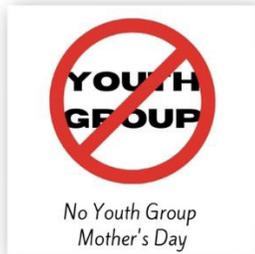
Youth Ministry

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



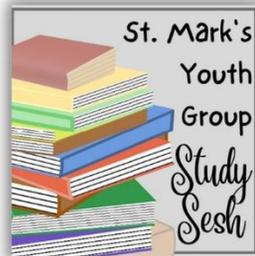
Youth Group Calendar grades 6-12

May 8



May 13

May 15



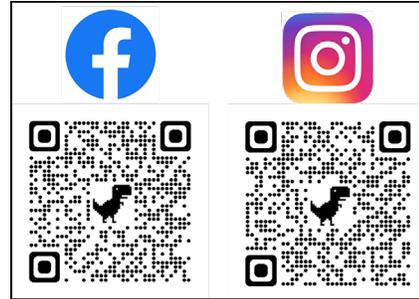
May 22

May 29



Want to know up-to-date youth info?

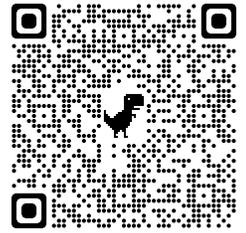
Check out our social media!



Rachel is posting amazing videos all week long. You DON'T want to miss them!

South District Takes Over Defy

Hurry! Sign up for our May 13 District Lock-In at Defy! Where better to spend your Friday night than with all of the phenomenal youth from around the South District, at Defy!? For only \$20, you get a whole night experience (socks included). Need a scholarship? No worries. We've got you covered – just let Rachel know in your registration form. Scan the QR code to sign up today.



PRE-TEEN UPDATES!

4th & 5th
Graders

Sundays: 4-6pm
in Room 9!

No Meetings On
May 8th &
May 29th!

Invite a friend and don't
forget good shoes &
a water bottle.



May 1st
Friends Matter!

May 15th
Chocolate Chip Day!

May 22nd
Messy Games!
(Wear clothes that can
get dirty!)



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Proud of you all!

You guys continue to amaze me. Every time I turn around, you do more to impress me. This year we got to hold our Sunrise Service in person and serve pancakes to our whole congregation. It was awesome! From the planning, to the speakers, to making the coffee, you guys rocked it. Thank you for all of your hard work. PARENTS: We are looking for a few parents to volunteer to help make the pancakes next year! We will train you on the new super cool oven that made the pancakes beautiful, delicious, AND easy! If you are interested, please let Rachel know.

CONFIRMATION

What an amazing year! Six amazing eighth-grade students came to classes Sunday mornings and learned and grew and challenged and laughed. On May 8, these amazing students will be confirmed into our congregation here at St. Mark's. It's always such an exciting day and Rachel is so proud of their hard work.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION

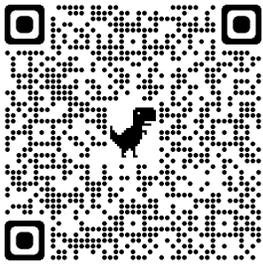
June 1-3

Students in grades 6-8: The South District Middle School Mission is getting all set up and ready for you! We will meet at St. Mark's, along with students from all over the South District, from June 1-3. You will participate in multiple missions around the Tucson area and have a ton of fun along the way. Registration links will be emailed soon!

SSP UPDATE

July 8-16

Sierra Service Project is fast approaching! There are still a few spots available, so if you are interested in joining us, hurry and sign up today. Your first two payments should have already been turned in to Rachel, and the final payment is due July 1. Scholarships are available. Questions? Contact Rachel. Register at the QR code or at <https://forms.gle/3bbmaAUM1sayLFyJ9>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Happy Mother's Day! May 8

Aren't moms awesome!? They are pretty amazing humans, and we sure owe them a LOT! We will not be meeting on Mother's Day so you have time to show the moms in your life how much you appreciate them. Send Rachel a picture or a video of whatever cool thing you do!

St. Mark's Study Sesh May 15

Usually, when we have an event that is not on a Sunday, we take that Sunday off so you have time with your family. On May 15, there will be no youth programming. However, Rachel will open up the Wesley House to anyone interested in having a space to study. If you come, please come prepared to study!

High School Outing 6:30-7:30 p.m. June 5



Attention High School Students! Join Rachel on the first Sunday of every month for a High School Outing. We meet out in public to enjoy some time of fellowship and discussion. On June 5, meet Rachel at Frost Gelato for an hour of friends, fellowship, and connection.

May Birthdays

- May 3—*Kiera Ritchey*
- May 14—*David Titzel*
- May 26—*Carter DaDeppo*



Send Your Kids to Camp!

Pastor Lynn will be driving her own kids to Mingus Mountain United Methodist Camp, outside Jerome, Arizona. Your kids can come along! Sign up for one of the camp sessions the week of June 27, and Pastor Lynn will take care of the transportation there and then back again on July 2.

For more information, go to

<https://mingusmountaincamp.org/camp-sessions/>
Here you will find all the details!

Photos of Graduates Needed

Graduate Sunday is May 15, and St. Mark's would like to honor its graduates! We are so proud of all of our graduates, whether they are graduating from high school or beyond. Please send a picture to rachel@umcstmarks.org to be included in the slideshow we'll show in church. High school students, please include your post-graduate plans. Please send pictures by May 10. Thank you!

Mental Health Awareness Month

Established in 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month was intended to increase awareness of how crucial mental health and well-being are to the wholeness of a person's experience of life. Much of the focus during the month is on reducing the stigma associated with mental illness and emphasizing that treatment and care can result in individuals living full and productive lives.

Mental health needs have risen to the forefront of our concerns as the pandemic lockdown and isolation adversely affected many who may not have previously expressed any mental health issues. As a community, we are called to listen to those in need and support them as best we can. The 2016 edition of the United Methodist Social Principles reminds us that we are all created in the image of God and that no one should be stigmatized because of mental illness. We are called to treat people with mental illness with "respect on the basis of common humanity and accurate information. (Those with mental illness) also have a right and responsibility to obtain care appropriate to their condition. The United Methodist Church pledges to foster policies that promote compassion, advocate for access to care and eradicate stigma within the church and in communities." May it be so with us at St. Mark's UMC.

Please know that nobody needs to face mental illness alone and asking for help is not a sign of weakness. If you are worried for the immediate health or safety of yourself or another please call 911. The St. Mark's community also supports a Counselor-in-Residence program that serves our community by facilitating a grief support group. If you are curious about this or other things the Counselor-in-Residence does please contact the office (520-297-2062) or Pastor Stuart (stuart@umcstmarks.org).

Melinda Sims, Church and Society Committee

May Prayer Request List

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," and then scroll down to "Prayer Ministry Team."

Annual Conference Coming Up

In our Methodist structure, we are part of an Annual (regional) Conference. Each year, we meet together with an equal number of lay members from churches and clergy who serve as pastors. At these meetings, we do the business of the Annual Conference: budget approvals, fixing of appointments, election of committee members, and my favorite, Ordination. We have met virtually for the last two years. This year, we will meet in a hybrid format on June 10-11, with some extra meetings on June 8 and 9. We have three pastors who will be attending, plus six lay members. Thank you for your prayers for these we send to do the business of the Conference!



After an Easter break, the St. Mark's Rainbow Fellowship will resume monthly meetings at 9 a.m. May 15 in the church library. The fellowship is primarily for individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+ and Christian, and it meets for fellowship, support and sharing the joys and concerns of living in these challenging days. All are welcome, regardless of age or church membership status. For more information, please contact Melinda Sims at rainbow@umcstmarks.org. We look forward to having you join us!



Have you been thinking about membership at St. Mark's and wondering how to get more information and then join? From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, May 8, Pastor Lynn and Tricia Chester will lead a Membership 101 class 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 for this class, visit our website, <https://umcstmarks.org>, and hover over "Classes," where you'll find a dropdown option for Membership 101. If you have questions, please email Tricia@umcstmarks.org.

United Women in Faith

St. Mark's United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 10 in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Our program will be provided by Mr. Jay Wise, a licensed, practicing pharmacist. He will talk with us about vaccines, boosters and how best to protect yourself. Please bring a donation of children's or adult diapers to this meeting, if you can. Questions? Contact Clara Campbell (see church directory). Need the Zoom info? Contact Kay Hayworth (see church directory).

St. Mark's UWF's Grace Circle (our hands-on mission group) will help at the Diaper Bank of Southern AZ on Tuesday morning, May 17. Grace Circle members and others will meet in the Church's south parking lot at 8:50 a.m. and carpool to the diaper bank, leaving church at 9 a.m. We will be working in an open-air warehouse. Please wear closed-toed shoes, and drink containers must have a lid. Be sure to bring a mask, as they are required in the office and restroom areas (but not in the warehouse).

Grace Circle members are collecting disposable diapers for babies and adults on Sunday mornings, May 8 and 15. The most-requested sizes are children's sizes 4 and 5. If you have questions, please contact Vickie Dee (see church directory) or leave a note in the United Methodist Women (until the mailbox label changes) mailbox in the church office.

Who is That Masked Man?

Well, we know it wasn't the Lone Ranger *this* time. The Lone Ranger wore his mask over his eyes to protect his identity. We've been wearing masks over the lower halves of our faces for the past couple of years now to protect each other. And now we need to re-introduce ourselves to one another. One helpful way to do that is by wearing your nametag. If you've lost yours, check the iron artwork in the Sanctuary narthex to see if someone has kindly returned it. If your nametag is really lost, put your information on the sign-up sheet there and a new one will be made for you.



Another way we can put names and faces together again will be to participate in our photo directory! It's been **seven years** since our last one! If you have not done so already, please send your recent picture to Tricia@umcstmarks.org with the subject line "Directory Picture." The final date photos will be accepted is Thursday, May 12. A suggested donation of \$10 will get you a hard copy of the directory and an 8x10 printed photo of your photo submission. We can also email you the files digitally.

Hi-Yo Silver, Away!

SALE on Logo-Imprinted Items

The Church Growth & Hospitality Committee will hold a sale of logo-imprinted items at reduced prices after each service May 8 and 15 in the courtyard. The following items are available to purchase:

	ORIGINAL	SALE
Teal Thermal Tote	\$6	\$3
Orange Super Snack Bag	\$5	\$3
Blue Large Utility Tote	\$12	\$10
Blue Hot & Cold Casserole Carrier	\$12	\$10
Black Pop-Top Cooler	\$10	\$9
Chilly Towels	\$7	\$5

The use of the imprinted items in a public setting is one way of taking St. Mark's UMC into the community. What items would you like to see in the future? Let us know!

Marge Sogn, interim chair, Church Growth & Hospitality

St. Mark's Financial Performance

St. Mark's income during March was \$106,082 while expense was \$86,677. The resulting net income of \$19,405 has been reflected in the first quarter numbers below:

	Actual (Jan-Mar)	Budget (Jan-Mar)	Plus/Minus
Income	\$ 304,833	\$ 248,608	56,225
Expense	246,005	301,693	(55,688)
Net Income	\$ 58,828	(\$ 53,085)	

These year-to-date figures reflect the good financial position of St. Mark's. Income is close to last year's numbers at this time. Committees have done an excellent job of keeping expenses down. Pastoral Staff is \$9,200 under budget, Program & Support Staff is \$24,000 under, Missions \$6,000, and Trustees \$13,000. The Finance Committee understands that some expenses budgeted for the first quarter have been deferred until the second quarter. That said, we are still off to a good start for the year. Thank you for your generous contributions. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Bill Zermuehlen, Finance Committee Chair

Kitchen Orientations Begin in May

Are you planning to use the St. Mark's kitchen for an event? Would you like to learn more about the new kitchen equipment?

Kitchen users will need to complete the Orientation to the Kitchen prior to using it.

A two-step orientation has been designed to familiarize users with the new kitchen and equipment and expectations for use.

First, call the Church office for a link to watch the kitchen orientation video. They will email you the link to the most recent video.

Second, contact the office to let them know you have watched the video and are ready to sign up for an onsite orientation.

The onsite orientation sessions will take place at 11 a.m. after Sunday church on a regular basis beginning in May. These will be offered once or twice a month depending on the need. Watch the bulletin and Eblast for dates. These sessions will *not* include Rational oven training.

Confirmation Sunday

It's fast approaching! On Sunday, May 8, the 2021-2022 Confirmation class will be confirmed. These students have worked so hard. They have met weekly with Rachel (and occasionally the pastors!), they have gone on field trips, and they have asked many hard questions and learned so much. We invite you to welcome these students on the patio after all services. Rachel also thanks them for all their hard work!

We Asked and You Gave!

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the (No Cooking) Sunday Dinner Sale on April 3. You donated just over \$350 for scholarships for the Conference Strength for the Journey camp retreat for people living with HIV/AIDS. This will be about two additional scholarships—two more Happy Campers!

Tucson HIV/AIDS Network is having its big annual fundraiser—Treasures for TIHAN—virtually on June 4. Many ways you can help: donate an item/s to be auctioned, join the party on June 4 from the comfort of your own home for the live auction and entertainment, be a sponsor with a monetary donation, donate an auction item, or all of the above! Go on the website at www.tihan.org and click on "Treasures for TIHAN" and "Donate an Auction Item." If you have any questions, call Scott Blades at 520-297-6647.

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

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Please keep these people in your prayers. Email additions or updates to 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
Matthew Hughey, son of Juliee & Billy Morrison and grandson of Joyce Flick
Rachel Kester, daughter of Don Kester & 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



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...

I want to thank our wonderful church family for supporting our Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner. We were very surprised at the number of orders we had after almost three years. Thanks also to all the United Women in Faith who helped put it all together.
- Clara Campbell

It is with great joy that I write to you today. On my way to the outreach, I stopped to pick up supplies. Our shelves were quite empty. I then stopped at the post office and received your donation of \$2,500 for StandUp for Kids Tucson. Your ongoing support is truly a blessing.

Gratefully,
Kim Sisson, Executive Director, StandUp for Kids Tucson

Thank you for your in-kind gift of 12 quilts to Emerge on 4/13/22.

At a time when our community faces significant challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, many survivors of domestic abuse face the impact of the pandemic and the measures implemented to control it. Many survivors and their children have been cut off from the resources and networks that may have helped to support them in the past. Your gift will help ensure they can continue to receive the support they need. ... Thank you for investing in this work. Together, we can create a community free from abuse.

Sincerely,
Laurny Bianco, VP of Operations and Philanthropy

Thank you so much for the very generous donation! We are grateful for St. Mark's continuing support of our mission to end homelessness. We have received your check and we also received the matching funds from TEP! Thank you for thinking of us and please know that St. Mark's is an important part of the work we do here.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend,
Jamie Snyder, Chief Executive Officer, Our Family Services



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Reflections

Happy May!

This is a busy month! We had Communion this last Sunday. This coming Sunday is Confirmation Sunday, when we will confirm six youth as members of the church. The week after that is Graduate Sunday, recognizing those in our congregation who are graduating this year (send in your photo!!! – see page 8 of this Messenger). Then, we will celebrate our United Methodist heritage on May 22 with special guests (more on that later!). Finally, Memorial Day weekend will give way to Pentecost Sunday the first week in June. I'm tired just thinking about it all! But it's all good stuff, isn't it?

Some "experts" say that May is the busiest month, after December. It's when schools start winding down. Band concerts, AP exams, awards ceremonies, graduations – they all clamor for attention in family calendars. It's also the time the retired generation begins the migration away from the desert. Some of you are already on the road, and some of you are choosing what to pack and making all the necessary arrangements with the electric company and post office and doctor's offices. Again, it's all good stuff, isn't it?

I offer a gentle reminder to you this busy season not to forget the spiritual disciplines that connect you with God. Prayers, worship, scripture reading, study, silence, service – these are all important practices that help you navigate the changing and challenging month that you face. Take a deep breath and slow down for a minute. Center yourself on your Creator. Ground yourself in God's love and Christ's sacrifice. Allow the Spirit to move in and among you. It will help you tackle everything else with a bit more grace.

Regarding special guests: Many of you have asked about my family. My children are choosing to attend St. Paul's UMC with my husband. They don't like driving across town, I guess! However, we will all be here in worship on May 22. My kids will be our liturgists, and Ron and I will be preaching together. I hope that you come to worship, not just see my family, but I invite you to meet them as well!

Whether you are here this month or back in the fall, I pray that you know God's abundant grace in this time.

See you soon,
Pastor Lynn