

Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

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June 29, 2022



We Invite You, Yes YOU, to a Food Truck Party: On a Roll With God!

This year's Vacation Bible School Comes With a Twist

Plan to join the St. Mark's community for a **FOOD TRUCK PARTY** July 13-15! This **intergenerational event** will begin each evening with **dinner at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. This will be provided by the St. Mark's congregation on the 13th and 14th and will feature a Street Taco food truck on Friday night, July 15.

Following dinner, at **6 p.m. we will break into groups** for our programs. Adults of all ages and stages will have the option of attending a Parenting Conversation group or a Scripture-based study. Children (3 years old and potty trained, through fifth grade) will break off to participate in Vacation Bible School activities, with the theme, "Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God." Adult programming will conclude at 7:15. Adults may stay and enjoy fellowship or crafts with the children. Children's activities (adults are encouraged to join) will conclude with a group closing in the Sanctuary from 7:45 – 8 p.m. Child care will be available upon request for children younger than 3 years old.

Registration forms are located on the St. Mark's website. On the home page, select "Resources" from the top right

of the menu that goes across the top of the page. Click on "Forms" and then navigate to the VBS form. Children's registration is \$20 per child, with a max of \$40 per family (so if you have more than two children, they attend for free). Scholarships are available through the church office. The adult program is free of charge. Registration for adults is also on the St. Mark's website. You may register to join us for one, two or all three evenings. **DON'T LET THE KIDS HAVE ALL THE FUN!**

Program information:

Parenting Conversations will be led by Liesl Scalzitti, Ph.D., on Wednesday July 13. Dr Scalzitti is a clinical psychologist and one of our Counselors-in-Residence. Laurie Walsh, director of the St. Mark's

Early Childhood Center, will lead the conversation on July 14. Laurie has a bachelor's degree in elementary special education and a master's degree in education leadership. Additionally, she has taught preschool – second grade as well as kinder-through-sixth-grade special education and has been the ECC center director for the past six years. Friday evening's conversation will be led by the St. Mark's lead pastor, Lynn Bartlow.

Continued on page 2

All Three St. Mark's Pastors Reappointed

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is happy to announce that during the proceedings of the Desert Southwest Conference annual meeting, Bishop Grant Hagiya announced the reappointment of our pastors. Lead Pastor Lynn Bartlow begins her second year at St. Mark's. Associate Pastor Stuart Salvatierra returns for his fifth year, and Christian Formation and Outreach Pastor Kim Ogle begins her third year. St. Mark's is blessed to be served by such gifted pastors. We are grateful for all the work, time and energy they dedicate as they shepherd us in our spiritual journey. The next time you see Pastor Lynn, Pastor Stuart, or Pastor Kim on campus, congratulate them on their reappointment and thank them for their leadership and service.

Blessings,
Tom Ellis, *SPRC Chair*



Parenting during the pandemic has no doubt been an incredible challenge. In 2022, we find ourselves in recovery mode and re-calibrating as children, teens and parents find themselves defining a new kind of normal. The summer break is a perfect time to gather together and create the space to share, reflect, and talk about the different experiences all of you went through as parents. I invite you to come to a parent discussion group on July 13, 14 and 15 where you can come together and do just that. Bring your stories, experiences, and questions. A few resources will be provided to help initiate the discussion. From that point, the discussion will naturally go in the direction that is needed for the group. We look forward to seeing you there.

Liesl Scalzitti, PhD, Laurie Walsh and Pastor Lynn Bartlow

Adult Scripture Study will be presented by the Adult Spiritual Growth team. The VBS theme is "Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God" and the children will learn about God's provision of food. The adult evening classes, beginning at 6 p.m., are based on the same Scripture passages studied by the children but will be discussed for deeper understanding and practical human applications. Each adult class will end with a video presenting current issues regarding food insecurity.

Please join St. Mark's and the neighboring community in celebrating the church tradition of Vacation Bible School.

Please pre-register at:

https://stmarksumc.formstack.com/forms/vbs2019_form

Adult VBS Class Schedule

- Wednesday 7/13: God Provides Food to Others - Exodus 16 and 1 Kings 17:8-16 discussion followed by Food Insecurity video. Leader: Harold Putt
- Thursday 7/14: Faithfully Staying True – Daniel 1 discussion followed by Food Insecurity video. Leader: Pastor Kim Ogle
- Friday 7/15: Jesus Models What the Disciples Are to Do – John 6:1-13 and John 21:1-17 discussion followed by John and Carla Yost, Food Insecurity Speakers. Leader: Marcia Rostad

The **Children's VBS program, "Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God,"** will begin at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary with an opening assembly and music. Children will learn about how God provided manna and quail, Elijah, the widow and the endless oil, Daniel and his friends and how Jesus feeds 5,000 and cooks the catch of the day. Each evening, the children will learn about these Scriptures through interactive stories and music and through hands-on science and crafts. Register today!

https://stmarksumc.formstack.com/forms/vbs2019_form

For more information, contact Julie Eblen at julie@umcstmarks.org. (Volunteer opportunities are also available.)

Introducing ... Our New Chancel Choir Director & Music Ministries Coordinator

Over the past few months, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee along with our Music Ministries Task Force has been hard at work searching for the right person to lead our choir and music ministry. During our search we were blessed to have three outstanding candidates from whom to choose. After virtual and live auditions, gathered input from members of the Chancel Choir, and discussion and discernment from the Music Ministries Task Force, Mr. Jordan Shomper was selected as our new Chancel Choir director. In addition, Mr. Shomper will assume the position of the St. Mark's Music Ministries Coordinator. Mr. Shomper is coming to us from Pennsylvania and will begin graduate studies at the University of Arizona this fall. He will begin his duties as Music Ministries Coordinator working virtually this month and will arrive in Tucson in time to begin preparations for fall choir. We are excited for Jordan to join the incredible St. Mark's music ministry. We look forward to his leadership and direction. In addition, the SPRC thanks all of the choir members and Sondra Franks for participating in the virtual and live auditions and prayerfully providing their input for the selection. Our Music Ministries Task Force included Marsha Dean, Kathy Deason, Susan Putt, Paul Stegall and Pastor Lynn Bartlow. Thank you for your time and commitment to the process.



St. Mark's is blessed. Thank you to all the musicians, accompanists, technicians, and volunteers who set the tone for worship at St. Mark's. We appreciate you.

We'll have the opportunity to meet Jordan Shomper this fall.

Tom Ellis, SPRC Chair



**Just Breathe (inspired by Holy Yoga™)
on hiatus the month of July.**

You can sign up ahead of time for August classes by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/JustBreatheSignUp>



Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

Ongoing Adult Sunday School Classes

- Are you interested in an introduction to the book of Isaiah? The **Sharing/Family Life** adult Sunday School class, which meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Sundays in Room 17/18 and via Zoom, will study "Navigating Isaiah" by Rev. Byron Thomas from Aug. 7-28. This is an introduction to Isaiah in which Thomas, a UMC district superintendent, weaves together stories from his childhood, experiences with his family, and the words of Isaiah on justice and peace to find meaning and relevance in the present day. He reminds us of Isaiah's comprehensive vision—that no aspect of life remains untouched by God. Each week, there will be a video segment followed by a Scripture-based discussion. Watch the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board on Sundays in July for more information on the study. The Scriptures and topic for each week will be listed, so you can come to one or all sessions as you wish. No book is necessary unless you wish to obtain one. You can do this through Cokesbury, Amazon, or <https://bookshop.org>, which supports local bookstores. It is not available as an e-book. For the Zoom link, call or text class leaders Rick Farnsworth or Terry Majewski (see church directory).
- The **Seekers** Bible study, which meets at 11:15 a.m. Sundays in Room 17/18 and via Zoom, has finished its study of the book of Isaiah. That is 62 chapters! Congratulations to this diligent class. Beginning Sunday, July 10, the class will switch its attention to the New Testament as it starts the books of 1 and 2 Peter. Drop-in participants and short-term attendees are welcome any time throughout the year. The Bible is the only book needed for study and is available in the classroom as needed. If attending online, please contact either class leader (Kelly Deyoe or Brenda Hunter, see church directory) for connection instructions.

Dove Mountain Study

Pastor Kim Ogle continues to lead this biweekly Tuesday study that reflects on the message from the previous Sunday's sermon. This study meets at 2 p.m. July 5 and 19 at the Dove Mountain Brew Pub, 12130 N. Dove Mountain Blvd. Drop in, escape the heat and enjoy the discussion and company of others.

Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in Arizona

A reminder that this year's academy, "Journey into the Heart of Christ: Spiritual Healing & Justice," takes place Sept. 18-23, and the registration deadline is Aug. 15. (Scholarships are available; contact Judy Boroto for details.) For more information and to register:

<https://dscumc.org/arizona-five-day-academy>

Class Leader Orientation in August

St. Mark's needs more adults to volunteer to lead Adult Spiritual Growth studies. The Adult Spiritual Growth Committee believes there are many church members who are interested but are anxious or uncertain about how to start the process. ASG is pleased to announce that a Leader Orientation Class is planned for 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 27, at the church (room to be announced). The purpose of this class is to help prepare interested class leaders, or leaders who desire a refresher course, in the various aspects of leading a study.

The orientation will focus on the basics of putting a class together including the selection of a study, what forms need to be completed, study promotion, suggestions for how to prepare ahead for each class session and how to obtain assistance from ASG and the church office staff. Experienced study leaders will talk about their classroom experiences and share tips for how to present study material, how to use and/or edit the information in a Study Leader's Guide, and methods to encourage class discussion.

The primary responsibility of a leader for an Adult Spiritual Growth study is to lead. A leader is not expected to be the owner of a wealth of knowledge related to the study material, but to learn along with the class participants. This active participation is stimulating, rewarding, and spiritually fulfilling. ASG hopes to see you at the leader orientation.

Please pre-register for this orientation in one of the usual two ways: on the Sunday morning ASG bulletin board in the courtyard or via our website by going to Classes and then "Adult Spiritual Growth Opportunities." Course materials and handouts will be supplied during class.

Marcia Rostad, ASG Chair

July Musical is 'Oklahoma!'

"Oklahoma!" is the first musical written by the duo of Rodgers and Hammerstein, and its film adaptation won an Oscar in 1955. It is set in farm country in 1906 and tells the story of a farm girl and her courtship by two rival suitors, a cowboy and a sinister and frightening farmhand. Interspersed in the rivalry is an ongoing fight between the local farmers and cowboys over fences and water rights.



Join St. Mark's movie night at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, in Room 17/18. Bring whatever comfort measures you choose to make the viewing enjoyable including popcorn, sack meal, favorite munchies. Lyrics will be provided for a sing-along. After the movie, there will be a brief reflection about the story. Put on your 10-gallon cowboy hat and your cowboy boots and enjoy a romping good time at the movies! Yee-haw!

Prayers for the Nation and the World

After we commemorate the independence of our nation, we invite you to join with our church family as we pray for our nation and the world. With music, spoken prayers, and silence, we will lift our voices to our God who always hears. Join us at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 6, in the Sanctuary or online (the same way you view worship).

Ice Cream Social & Potluck Lunch THIS SUNDAY



Bring a salad or pasta dish to share for lunch, and we will provide ice cream and toppings for sundaes! Wear your patriotic colors and get your singing voice ready: Todd Martin will accompany Paul and Denise Stegall as they lead us in

some patriotic songs. 11:15 a.m. Sunday, July 3 in the Fellowship Hall.

On the younger end of adulthood? Join Common Grounds!



Life gets so busy and hectic. I find myself always behind, trying to catch up and running from one thing to the next. I always welcome a time to sit, take a deep breath, and relax. It's even more rewarding when I can do that with friends from my church family! If you are in

this stage of life, and in your 20s, 30s, or 40s, I'd love for you to join us from 6-8 p.m. the third Saturday of every month in the church library. It's a time to catch our breath, have fun, and hold each other in prayer.

In July, we will meet in the church library at 6, and then drive over to "Chillin' at the Chul," Tohono Chul's family friendly summer evening activity! Admission is free and local music and food are available. In August, we will have a fun game night in the library! See you there! -Rachel

Rainbow Fellowship Welcomes Everyone



The St. Mark's Rainbow Fellowship's monthly meetings are open to anyone who would like to join the conversation. If you identify as LGBTQIA, or as an ally, family member or

questioning Methodist, please feel free to pop in during our next meeting at 9 a.m. July 17 in the church library. We're excited to be in fellowship with our entire church family, sharing questions and living into our faith together as community. If you have any questions (and to RSVP) please contact Melinda Sims, rainbow@umcstmarks.org.

Mark-a-ritas are Back

The Mark-a-ritas are starting to be active again, after hibernating during COVID. We are a loosely structured group of women in that middle-age to maturing-age group who just want to hang out and have some fun. We will next meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 18, to eat at the Persian Room, 9290 N. Thornydale Road, Ste 100. If you would like to join us, please email Brenda Hunter at ([see church directory](#)) by Friday evening, July 15, so she can finalize the reservation.

Thank You From the Quilters



The St. Mark's Quilters thank you for your donations of fabric, sewing supplies, and money. With your help, so far this year we have been able to make 261 quilts and have started more! These quilts have gone to Healthy Families, AVIVA, Easter Seals

Blake Foundation, Emerge, Pura Vida Assisted Living, and San Nicolas Assisted Living, with some Angel quilts to a NICU. Last December we donated Christmas quilts for foster children. All our quilts go to adults and children in different parts of the Tucson area with our love and our church's blessing. To raise additional funds for batting and supplies, people bring quilts to us they wish to have hand-quilted, which some of our ladies do for a fee.

We invite you to come see what we are doing at 9 a.m. any Thursday morning in Room 17/18 as we cut fabric, sew and quilt, as well as enjoy conversation while we work. Donations of 100% cotton fabric, batting, and monetary gifts are greatly appreciated.

Attend Concert, Support PACC: Win-Win!

At 3 p.m. Sunday, July 24, in the Sanctuary, Pete Fine returns to present a concert of his classical works. Admission will be by donation, with any amount appreciated. Pete will split proceeds equally between St. Mark's and the Pima Animal Care Center (where he got his cat)! The musical program will include works for guitar, guitar and violin, and the debut of Pete's Third String Quartet.

"It is rare that I get to present my classical music, and I hope you will be able to join me," he says.

Important Office Notes

The St. Mark's church office will be CLOSED on Monday, July 4 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

The Soul Station Wednesday evening worship service is on hiatus for the month of July.



Church & Society

Want to Change the World?

The daily news is full of challenging stories about the brokenness in our world. It's easy to surrender to the sense of helplessness – after

all, what can ONE person do to change the world? Friends, we have an example of world-changing love and justice in the ONE we call Jesus Christ. As he departed, Jesus called his community to preach the gospel to all the world, in word and in action. As we look to Jesus as our model and guide, we believe we can make a difference in the world! Your Church and Society Committee is actively engaged in addressing racial equity and justice, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, and social justice through civic engagement. Yet there is so much more we'd like to do (in creation care, anti-violence, and mental health, for example) – if only more volunteers would join us on the committee. If this resonates with you, we hope you'll come join us as we take small, steady steps to change the world together.

Melinda Sims, Church and Society Chair

Happy Anniversary, ADA!

Have you ever noticed raised or Braille letters and numbers on elevators and restrooms, and by doorways, stairs, and fire exits? Have you noticed at most street corners instead of a high curb there is a slope, and some street lights have audible walking prompts? Whether you have taken notice of these or not, they exist because of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H. W. Bush. The ADA prohibits discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to participate in the mainstream of American life. This includes employment opportunities, purchasing of goods and services, and participating in state and local government programs and services.

The ADA covers employers with 15 or more employees, including state and local governments. It also applies to employment agencies and to labor organizations. While religious organizations are exempt, St. Mark's did an accessibility audit in 2018. St. Mark's wanted to make sure that its facilities were accessible and welcoming to people who use walkers and wheelchairs, and who have other disabilities.

As a person who is totally blind since age 2, I truly am grateful for the ADA because it allows individuals such as myself to be gainfully employed. At a young age, I lived in an orphanage in Vietnam due to my blindness. Naturally as a kid I had no clue that life could be better until I was adopted by an American family in 1991, just one year after the ADA was passed. I didn't realize how much better life was until well after I learned English and received an education.

I believe that God had better plans for me by blessing me with a family in a country that had just passed the ADA to empower people like me. I worked hard in school and college, and with God's guidance I eventually landed a job here at the VA. I work full time teaching veterans who have lost some or all of their vision on how to benefit from technology. For example, how to get their phone to speak their email content and how to get visual audio descriptions in movie theaters. For more information on the ADA, please visit ada.gov. Join me in celebrating the anniversary of the ADA passing on July 26.

Tieu Nguyen Ly, daughter of Joylee Gathings, Church and Society

VOTE!! Here's How

Voting to choose our elected representatives is a basic responsibility of all citizens. The Methodist Social Principles have the following guidance:

"Our involvement in political systems is rooted in the Gospel imperative to love our neighbors, to do justice, and to care for the vulnerable. As United Methodists, we acknowledge that love requires responsible political action and engagement aimed at the betterment of society and the promotion of the common good."

(The following information applies only if a registered voter in Pima County. If you are registered in another county, contact the Recorder's Office of that county for information.)

There have been a number of changes since the last general election, and this is the latest information from the Pima County Recorder's Office. (Some of it may change after this year because of pending court cases and an initiative that may be on the November ballot.) The boundaries and number designations of federal, state, and local districts have changed. (See your new Voter Identification card.) If you did not receive a card, check to make sure you are still registered.

Automatic Receipt of Early Ballots: The Permanent Early Voting List is now the Active Early Voter List, and you will only be kept on it automatically if you vote in every statewide primary and final election. If you were on the PEVL, you should have received a card a couple of months ago to that effect and will receive your ballot in the mail.

If you are not registered with a political party, you must request a ballot from the Recorder's Office and designate a party (which will not affect your registration) or a municipal-only ballot. Oro Valley and Marana are having elections Aug. 2.

Returning mailed ballots--Three ways to return your ballots:

1. By mail following the enclosed instructions and mailing no later than July 26
2. At an Early Voting Location
3. On Election Day Aug. 2 at a Voting Center.

In-Person Early Voting: You can vote in person at an Early Voting Location at designated times. The two closest to St. Mark's are:

- Oro Valley Library, 1305 W. Naranja Drive, July 18-29, MWF 9-5, TTH 9-6
- Pima County Natural Resources, Parks & Rec., 3500 W. River Road, July 25-29, 9-5 (assumedly M-F)

Voting on Election Day: This is the first year to use Vote Centers in Pima County rather than precinct locations. They have been used successfully in other counties. Anyone can vote at any of these centers, and they may be closer to work, school, or any other convenient location. You simply submit identification (driver's license or voting ID) at your chosen center, and the correct ballot will be printed. The webpage <https://tinyurl.com/PimaVoteCenters> will link you to an interactive map of Vote Centers approved in Pima County.

Dorothy Montgomery, Church and Society Committee

Missions Update

In June, the Missions Committee allocated funds from our budget as follows:

- \$2,500 - The INN - In conjunction with the United Methodist Church and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, The INN helps those seeking asylum to safely transition into the United States by providing several support services. Kathie Barrett is our St. Mark's liaison to The INN and has been a longtime, dedicated volunteer.
- \$2,000 - Frontera Wesley - Frontera Wesley is the United Methodist campus ministry at the University of Arizona. It welcomes students of all faith backgrounds and those who are interested in collaborating with people of faith.

St. Mark's long ago committed to a tithe of 10% of giving to go directly toward our missions work. With that money, we support and volunteer with more than 30 organizations here at home and around the world. Thank you for support!

John Yost, Missions Committee Chair

Sign Up to Cook for Primavera

Special shout-out to the June 11 St. Mark's Primavera Meal Team: Karen Berry, Kitty Tobin, Julie Wile, Mary Beth Barone, Monique Thibault, Bill Purkey and Jan Walker! They watched the kitchen orientation video and went through training and then prepared an awesome turkey tetrazzini full of love and blessings for the men at the Primavera Men's Shelter.

This is a powerful way to serve and communicate the love of God to those in need. The month of December is already booked with two teams providing holiday meals. Why not sign up for October or November and pass the pumpkin? Also, plenty of slots open for summer: July 9, Aug. 13 and Sept. 10. Please sign up today at <https://tinyurl.com/PrimaveraMeals>.



ICS July Peanut Butter Party

St. Mark's will again participate along with 119 other churches affiliated with Interfaith Community Services in the



July Peanut Butter Party this year. Peanut butter is the food bank's most-needed item, with more than 2,000 jars distributed every month. ICS's goal is to collect 10,000 jars in July. St. Mark's has been a leading faith community contributor to the ICS Food Bank, donating more than 50,000 lbs. of food since we began in April 2020. During the Peanut Butter Party last July, we donated

a whopping 1,851 jars, more than any of the other faith communities! Let's see if we can do that again this July. **The smaller 14- to 16-ounce jars are the preferred contribution.** The generic brands are usually priced around \$1.60 per jar at most stores.

If you are able, please consider donating a few or a lot of jars of peanut butter during July. Perhaps you can ask friends and family to help as well.

Three ways to donate peanut butter starting July 1:

1. Bring your jars to church any Sunday in July. The church courtyard will have drop-off bins.
2. We will continue with our normal ICS Food Bank collection from 10-11 a.m. every Tuesday and Saturday in the north parking lot of the church. You can bring your peanut butter along with other food donations just like we have done in the past.
3. If these times do not work for you, bring your peanut butter to the church office during its normal hours in July, and we will take care of it from there.

St. Mark's is a generous, caring congregation. Our stated No. 1 priority is, "St. Mark's United Methodist Church will bring Christ to the world by taking church out into the world." Let's continue our good work and have fun by participating in the July Peanut Butter Party!

St. Mark's Food Donations Top 50,000 lbs.!

Our church family began collecting food donations for the northwest food bank at Interfaith Community Services in April 2020, when the pandemic began and long lines ensued at food banks across the country. We have not stopped collecting food donations since then and we have now exceeded 50,000 lbs. donated. That has helped thousands of people in Southern Arizona. Thank you so much!

Youth Ministry

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



Youth Group Calendar grades 6-12

July 3



July 10



July 17



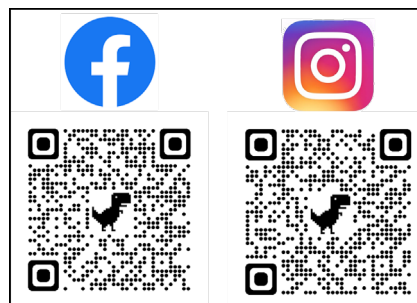
Saturday July 23

July 31



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!

Rock Solid

On June 12, we had a small but strong group go check out Rock Solid Climbing and Fitness. We learned how to boulder, how to trust our bodies that God gave us and how to do hard things. Some of us had climbed before and could do really impressive things! Some of us were pretty new at this; Rachel was super proud to make it about three feet up! Summertime is made for these fun adventures. Hopefully you can join us on our next adventure!



PRE-TEEN UPDATES!

4th & 5th
Graders

Sundays: 4-6pm
in Room 9!

No Meetings On
July 3rd & July
10th

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

July

The 3rd
11:30am Ice Cream
Social After Church

The 17th
Among Us in Real
Life

The 24th
Water Games

Youth Ministry

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



STUMP THE PASTORS

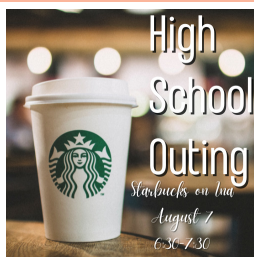
Stump the Pastors is well on its way – and we are having a hard time stumping the pastors! We need to think of some super-hard church- or Bible-related questions! Have a good one!? Either ask Rachel to record your question on a Sunday, or send in a video of your question! Remember, it's Team Pastors vs. Team Youth – and they are winning! Check the youth social media to see questions' answers and the leaderboard!



HIGH SCHOOL OUTING

6:30-7:30 p.m. Aug. 7

Attention high school students! Notice we don't have a high school outing in July?? Don't despair – it's back in August! AND! At this high school outing, we will welcome our new freshman students! If you need a ride after youth group, let Rachel know! Otherwise, we will meet at the Starbucks at Ina and Oracle from 6:30-7:30.



SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT

July 8-16

This year, St. Mark's is taking 13 youth and two adults to Sierra Service Project in San Diego. We have missed this opportunity the last two years, and we couldn't be more excited to be returning! This year will be an adventure, as we will be housed at a camp, in yurts! Students will help with local home improvement projects and will learn and grow together. It will be such a fun week. Stay tuned to hear all about it!



YOUTH AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who is three in one.

We believe God is our creator,
God created each of us, and loves us unconditionally.

We believe Christ is eternal, Christ is infinite.
Jesus beat the game of death.
This victory allows everyone to live in Heaven with him.
With Jesus in our heart, the fear we feel has no power.

We feel the Holy Spirit surround us and fill our hearts with joy and faith.

We believe that having a community here with our brothers and sisters helps us motivate each other, support one another in faith and love, and get closer to God.

We will do our best, even if we make mistakes, to live a life honoring God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and all God's children.

Amen

(written by St. Mark's youth)

UPCOMING EVENTS

I Scream, You Scream ... 10 a.m. July 3

This summer, our church is having all-church activities on the first Sunday of every month, so our youth group program will be earlier in the day! In June, we had so much fun at our Salad Smorgasbord. So much fun, we decided we should probably do that again. But with ice cream. Because – who doesn't love ice cream??

Meet in the Wesley House during the Sunday School hour at 10 a.m., and we will have a short lesson and then help set up the event, including our fun scavenger hunt! Youth group will take place during the event, from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 or 1 p.m.

A Day Off!? July 10

Rachel will be at Sierra Service Project with 13 of her closest friends on July 10. We will still have Sunday School from 10-11 a.m. in the Wesley House but no youth group that evening. See you on the 17th!

Movie Night July 17

Rachel's favorite summertime activity is sitting in an air-conditioned movie theater with some popcorn and a soda! Ahhhh ... That's the best! Join us as we go to Foothills AMC theaters to watch "Minions: The Rise of Gru"! Tickets are \$5, snacks on your own. As always, friends are welcome. Watch social media and your email for information on meeting time (movie times will be released on the 15th).

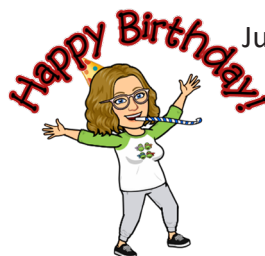
Funtasticks with Friends 3:15-7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 23

What's more fun than a Saturday afternoon at Funtasticks!? An afternoon at Funtasticks WITH FRIENDS!! Meet at the Wesley House at 3:15 p.m., and we will drive to Funtasticks to meet the youth from St. Paul's! We will be back to the Wesley House by 7:30. Wristbands for our group will be \$10. Want to bring a friend!? They are free!

Elevate Trampoline Park 4-6 p.m. July 31

By the end of the summer, do you feel like you are going stir crazy!? Like you need to run around and be crazy!? Have I got a deal for you! You need to come by St. Mark's a tiny bit early so we can leave right at 4 and head over to Elevate (you will need a waiver at <https://tucsonelevate.com/>) to jump off some major energy! If you have Elevate socks, bring them! If not – you do now. We will be back by 6! Cost is \$5.

July Birthdays



July 10—**Jonathan Petrikat-Lindsay**

July 12—**James Carsten**

July 17—**Abbie Lee**

July 22—**Freder Morrison**

July 26—**Owen Morrison**

July 31—**Brendan Ritchey**



Refugee Resettlement Update

Our St. Mark's congregation continues to get more involved in this new ministry helping our new neighbors resettle into Southern Arizona. We are beginning to see refugees from Ukraine, in addition to those from other parts of the world, many of whom have been in resettlement camps for years waiting to be relocated. Can you imagine your family having to flee your homeland, often with nothing more than the clothes on your back and few possessions, and then finding yourself in a completely new country where you do not know anyone or even speak the language?

That is what many of our new neighbors are facing. Our friendship and help are needed. These are wonderful people who are truly grateful for what we are doing for them in a caring, Christian way. Your prayers for our refugee friends and those among us involved in this ministry are appreciated. If you are not already participating and are interested in learning more contact missions@umcstmarks.org.

From Tucson Refugee Ministry:

Would you consider a "baby partnership"? We have several women who are expecting in the next few months. Would you consider blessing them with your donation of time or gifts?

If you'd like to connect with a new mom to surround her with friendship and support during her pregnancy, please let us know by visiting

<https://www.tucsonrefugeeministry.com/volunteer-now>

Missions Offering for Annual Conference

Every year, our Desert Southwest Conference designates projects for missions offerings at Annual Conference. This year, the highlighted offering for the 2022 Annual Conference is "The Long Journey Scholarship Fund" for DACA students.

If you are not familiar with the acronym, DACA stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, DACA prevents deportation of immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children and meet a specific set of guidelines. If you want to learn about some of the DACA students, you can watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PA-TGAHOZls>

After conversation and prayer, the Missions Committee, on behalf of the St. Mark's congregation, donated \$1,500 from the Change the World Fund to the Annual Conference offering, which again, will go to the Long Journey Scholarship Fund. We are blessed to be able to help.

Please Donate School Supplies for Nash

The St. Mark's Nash Neighbors Committee will once again collect school supplies for Nash Elementary students. We are asking for the congregation's support in donating supplies. We will collect supplies each Sunday in July. There will be a blue bin in the church courtyard for your donations. Following is our schedule of collection dates:

After 8:30 and 10 a.m. services July 10, 17, 24 and 31

Suggested supplies to donate:

- . Hand Sanitizer, unscented, 30-34 oz. pump bottles
- . Disinfectant Wipes, large canisters
- . Elmer's Glue Sticks
- . Expo Black Dry Erase Markers, thick point
- . Pink Pearl Erasers
- . Scissors, student size

If anyone wishes to make a monetary donation, please write "Nash School Supplies" on the memo line of your check and mail the check to the church office, 1431 W. Magee Road, Tucson AZ 85704. You may also give online by visiting the church website, then go to the "Giving" tab. Click on "Donations" and scroll down to the "Nash School Supplies" option.

Questions? Contact Sheli Gray (call church office).

Thank you for your support of the children at Nash!

Update from Worldwide Christian Support Task Force:

Russia Update

Did you know that the U.S. government has a Commission on International Religious Freedom? It keeps track of persecution all over the world. In 2021, it listed Russia as a country of "Particular Concern" for persecution for "systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom, as defined by the International Religious Freedom Act." In December, Russia was placed on the Special Watch List as a threat to religious freedom.



The report says Russia is still enforcing laws that were written during stricter times in its history. It is enforcing laws that include church licensing, taxing, "extremism," blasphemy, and missionary activity. The laws are vague and let the government prosecute anything it thinks is harmful. Only Iran and Pakistan have higher numbers of blasphemy cases. Protestant churches are often fined for missionary activity and have been accused of spreading COVID-19.

In Russian-controlled Crimea, Russians began taking ownership of churches and removing the members. The first to be taken was the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Cathedral of St. Vladimir and Olga. In Ukraine, Russian forces have damaged at least 59 religious sites including churches and synagogues. At Mariupol, the Church of the Archangel Michael was severely damaged. In Kharkiv, the Assumption Cathedral and the Church of Transfiguration were both shelled by Russian forces. In Donetsk, a 16th-century monastery was struck by Russian blasts, leaving it damaged from repeated shelling. The buildings were occupied by refugees and monks, and some were wounded.

Prayer: Dear Lord, give strength and courage to the followers of Christ who are being persecuted in Russia and Ukraine.

Notes from Annual Conference, Part 1 of 3

The 38th Annual Conference of the Desert Southwest met in person and via Zoom on June 8 and from June 10, through the ordination worship service on June 11. The purpose of the Annual Conference is to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God." (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶ 601.) This is a pretty broad definition, and therefore there were quite a variety of agenda items. These include building community through worship, learning experiences, and the usual items that relate to what we often think of as the "business" of the church. This section shares the experience through the eyes of the newest delegate to Annual Conference.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church was represented by our three pastors, Revs. Lynn Bartlow and Stuart Salvatierra and Pastor Kim Ogle. As one of the largest churches in the conference, we were able to elect and send six lay delegates: Don Booth, Kelly Deyoe, Brenda Hunter, Diane James, Rachel Mosher, and Josh Smith. Several other people affiliated with the St. Mark's community also attended Annual Conference. Our own Alberta Farnsworth is the Conference Lay Leader and attended in that position. In UMC polity, retired pastors continue to be members of the Annual Conference, so Revs. Judy Boroto and Sharon Ragland chose to attend.

Most of us have attended Annual Conference in person or by Zoom before, but this was the first time for Diane. We asked her to share her impressions as a "newbie":

My first impression of Annual Conference was that it was moving very slowly and that it would be tedious. Not so. Most likely this was due to the hybrid format with delegates in person and on Zoom as I was. Care was taken to ensure that we were all able to vote when necessary and then everything proceeded smoothly.

As a past member of the Finance Committee at St.

Mark's, the budget discussion interested me. The 2023 budget was presented with \$0 increase over last year, voted on and approved. This was amazing to me, but it shows that the teams of faith communities, outreach and discipleship made a concerted effort to work together for the greater good and hold down costs moving forward, so important during these uncertain times.

Another financial matter that interested me was that the Trustees asked for permission to sell the Desert Southwest Conference headquarters building in Mesa. Even before the pandemic, the building was being underutilized. However, many continue to work remotely even post-pandemic, but the facility still has maintenance and other expenses that need to be paid. We voted to approve accepting any offer that would be almost twice the appraised value, a very wise move in today's market. The monies can then be used in finding a smaller building to buy with the excess to be applied where it should make a difference.

And my final thought, after witnessing the names of the appointments in all districts of the DSC, is that I couldn't help but notice that we have so very many impressive women serving as pastors, lay leaders and in positions of authority!

The theme of this year's annual conference was "Thrive: From Languishing to Flourishing." Videos from 12 different churches (large and small) were shown that highlighted the variety of ministries offered by those churches both during and as we came out of the pandemic. The videos were uplifting and interesting and showed the way the churches thrived while serving their communities.

In the next two parts, we will present information on the work of the laity and fixing of appointments and summarize the actions of the Annual Conference (those items that we voted on).

Don Booth, Kelly Deyoe, Brenda Hunter, Diane James, Rachel Mosher, Josh Smith

Visit England in 2023!

Have you ever wanted to go to England and visit the places that impacted John Wesley and helped form our Methodist faith? Now you have the chance! Revs. Lynn Bartlow and Sharon Ragland will lead a Wesley Heritage Tour through Educational Opportunities, leaving May 29, 2023. We'll fly to London, visit various sites that are important to Methodism, see the English countryside and have free time in London to explore. This will be a "South District Wesley Heritage Tour," planned in cooperation with District Superintendent Rev. Matt Ashley. You don't have to be in the South District to go, though. All are welcome. Sharon and Lynn will offer an informational meeting at 11:15 a.m. July 17, 2022 at St. Mark's and a Zoom meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 10. Plan to attend to ask any questions you might have! If you want more info now, contact Sharon at ([see church directory](#)), or contact Pastor Lynn.

A brochure outlining the trip is available in the church office or you can download it here:

http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/files/uploads/HE23_052923R_39642_Ragland_FINAL.pdf

July Prayer Requests

The St. Mark's Prayer Ministry Team provides monthly prayer request information 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 scroll down to "Prayer Ministry Team." If you are reading the newsletter online, you can click on this link to see the July prayer requests:

https://umcstmarks.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/monthlyprayerlist_07-22.pdf

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
Barb Osar
Mary Sanders

Dave & Karen Thomas
Carol Underwood
Jackie Vickers

We also pray for travel mercies for those who are driving or flying on trips this summer, that car troubles are minimal or nonexistent and flights are not delayed, and that all flight connections are made. We pray for safety for our loved ones as they reach their destinations.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family of **Mike DeConcini**, who unexpectedly went to be with our Lord on June 2. Mike and his wife, Sheryl, have attended St. Mark's for many years. Their children, Jamie and Michael, were confirmed at this church and attended youth group until they graduated and went off to college. A celebration of life is planned for August. Condolences can be directed to 1042 E. Rudasill Road, 85718.



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

St. Mark's Financial Performance

St. Mark's income during May was \$122,378, while expense was \$77,975. The resulting net income of \$44,403 is reflected in the year-to-date numbers below:

	Actual	Budget	Plus/Minus
Income	\$516,865	\$414,346	\$102,519
Expense	408,462	499,045	(90,583)
Net Income	\$108,403	(\$84,699)	

May's income included about \$48,600 from the government for the Employee Retention Credit. St. Mark's filed for this last November. Without this assistance May's net income would have been a \$4,000 loss. With the lean summer months upon us, this was certainly a great time to receive these funds. The \$108,403 year-to-date net income brings the Unrestricted Fund to \$250,969. St. Mark's is in a good financial position during these difficult economic times. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Bill Zermuehlen, Finance Committee Chair

Join Pastor Lynn for Next 'Coffee With the Pastor'

Come with questions or just to chat! 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 6 at the Foothills Mall Barnes & Noble café.



Reflections

Vacation Bible School, Then and Now

Do you have Vacation Bible School memories? I remember going with my friend to her Baptist church's VBS one year. Other years, our church had an elaborate VBS set in what was thought to be the time of Jesus, complete with costumes and era-appropriate crafts. I think I still have the basket that I weaved that year and had the clay pot I made for decades afterwards. I remember the first one I was in charge of, fresh out of college. Thankfully the volunteer VBS director who worked with me had more experience than I did and taught me the ropes. We had fun with balloons that year, with feet another year. Good times.

I've missed VBS in recent years. More parents are working full-time, so they aren't able to drop their kids off for a half-day program and then pick them up in the middle of their work day. More retired volunteers choose not to help with VBS because it's exhausting. Then, you know, a pandemic. The reasons for shifting VBS are plenty and are valid, but I still miss it.

I'm excited to participate in VBS this year at St. Mark's. You've no doubt read all about it and have marked it on your calendar so you can participate. For the first time in anyone's memory, we are holding VBS at night, starting with a meal. We are offering adult classes as well. This is a bold move,

daring to believe that all ages can benefit from the fun and learning of VBS. We are offering help for parents and fun times for their kids, so all can learn and grow together in their faith. We are offering yet another way for us to care for one another as we invite you to meet in community and attend to your faith journey. I'm excited about it.

How will you participate this year? Sign up and come eat each night in the cool of the Fellowship Hall! Sign up to help cook or clean up one night! Sign up to attend a parenting small group. Sign up to join the Bible conversation. Sign up to help the kids in their classes. It will be a fun time you won't want to miss.

Above all, we need your prayers. Please pray for those who are searching for what we have to offer, that they might come. Please pray for our volunteers who will enter relationship with those who come. Please pray for our teachers who are preparing for the lessons and learnings each night. Please pray for those who will work to provide a meal.

Then, consider joining us. It will be a great time!

*See you soon,
Pastor Lynn*