

Messenger

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



Planning for Our Future

We value the future of our church, and we are committed to building a sustainable and strategic ministry that will have a deep impact. That's why we are developing a game plan together. We have invited Ministry Architects to work with us to develop a strategic plan for ministry for the next years. (Learn more about them at <https://ministryarchitects.com/>.)



The first part of their work is listening to you, the congregation. The team will visit us Sept. 16-18. The

people from Ministry Architects will spend the majority of their time listening to a variety of groups within the church through focused listening groups. We hope to see participation in those groups from a broad spectrum of members, regular attenders, volunteers, and youth. We want your insights, your frustrations, and your dreams to be heard.

For those who can't attend a focus group, you will be invited to take part in an online survey, much like the one we did in February. You will be given a link to follow and to answer the questions from the Ministry Architects team.

After spending two days in these listening groups (and taking copious notes), the Ministry Architects team will hunker down to write a report, sharing with us what they've heard about the church's ministry – including assets, challenges, and how we compare to other churches around the country – and where it seems that God might be taking us next. At 6 p.m. Sept. 18, the report will be presented to the congregation in the Sanctuary, laying out specific recommendations and a blueprint for how we might move forward. If you would like to be part of this process and have your voice heard, please contact the church office, info@umcstmarks.org or 520-297-2062.

This is the first step in a 19-month process we are beginning with Ministry Architects. Stay tuned to our weekly email for more information on this and other ways we are beginning to strategically plan for the next era of ministry here at St. Mark's.

Call for Artists and Artisans

The St. Mark's Fine Arts and Crafts Guild will host its annual **Masterpiece Festival** on Nov. 5 and is now accepting vendor applications. If you or someone you know are interested in selling handmade art or crafts, contact Clay Thompson (facg@umcstmarks.org) for information about different types of space availability.

Praise & Thanks for Praise Team

For about two decades, the upbeat, toe-tapping, hand-clapping, get-up-out-of-your-seat music of the Praise Team and Band blessed and lifted up St. Mark's worship. If you experienced their performances in the past 11:15 a.m. contemporary service known as "The Gathering," the more recent 10 a.m. modern service, during summer blended worship, or any number of St. Mark's special events you know that their enthusiasm, praise and celebration enhanced worship and reassured that God was in that space. Over the years, many singers and musicians offered their gifts, talent, time, and witness to make the Praise Team a meaningful success. Sunday, Aug. 21 was the Praise Team's last performance. If you missed it, you missed a truly moving experience. I am sure you can count on your hands and toes the number of times the St. Mark's congregation got out of their seats to move with the music. Aug. 21 was one of those days. Through the last note, the last drum beat of the last tune, God's house was rocking. Join us as we say a great big THANK YOU to all the singers and musicians who have been a part of this incredible music ministry. Especially, we thank and pray for Praise Team 2022 – Cathy, Casey, Donna, Linda, Johanna, Hannah, Todd, Pete F., Pete S., Mike, and Chris – your music, praise, and presence have made a difference. Thank you, thank you, thank you.



Tom Ellis, Chair, Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Join us for 'Encanto' Sept. 23

Please plan to join your church family at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 23, in the St. Mark's Fellowship Hall to watch "Encanto." We will begin the evening with a pizza dinner at 5:30 and cartoon/short video for younger children. At 7:30 we will play "Encanto." Plan to come for all or part of the evening. Bring blankets, pillows, chairs, etc. and wear your pajamas or comfortable clothing. Popcorn and drinks will be provided as well. This event is sponsored by the Children's Education, Family Ministries and Church and Society committees in honor of Latin/Hispanic Heritage Month.

Also coming soon: the St. Mark's Fall Festival – Be on the lookout for information coming soon with details about this fun family event.

Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

ALL REGISTRATION IS ONLINE AT <https://umcstmarks.org> then go to "Classes" and then select "Adult Spiritual Growth Opportunities." Facilitators will then email you with specific information needed for each opportunity.

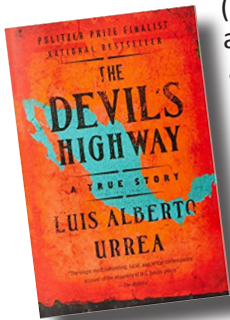
Open Minds Book Group

The St. Mark's book discussion group will resume monthly meetings on Friday, Sept. 30. Continuing and new members are welcome. We meet 9 to 10:30 a.m. via Zoom on a Friday in the latter half of each month. You may register for one or more of our meetings online. Books may be borrowed from the Pima County Public Library or purchased (new or used) from Amazon, Barnes & Noble or <https://bookshop.org/>, which supports local book sellers.

Co-leaders Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban are excited to present the fall lineup:

Sept. 30: "The Devil's Highway," by Luis Alberto Urrea (2004). In May 2001, a group of Mexicans attempted to cross into Southern Arizona along the deadliest section of the U.S. border. Based on numerous interviews and meticulous research, Urrea tells the true story about how a reoccurring event—an illegal border crossing—went terribly wrong. He writes with empathy and insight about the migrants and border patrol agents, and poetically describes the Sonoran desert's beauty that is sometimes deadly. Regard-

less of your opinion about our government's border policy, you'll find this story heartbreaking.



Oct. 28: "American Dirt," by Jeanine Cummins (2019). Lydia, her journalist husband, and their son Luca live in Acapulco. While cracks are appearing in this city because of the cartels, Lydia's life is comfortable. However, after her husband's tell-all profile of the newest drug lord is published, their lives are changed forever. Forced to flee, Lydia and Luca join the countless people trying to reach the United States. This is a novel for our times about life on the run—hard to read but hard to put down. Lydia and Luca's journey is a testament to the power of fear, courage, and hope that there are more good people in this world than bad.

Nov. 18: "Laughing Boy: A Navajo Love Story," by Oliver La Farge (1929). Laughing Boy is a model member of his tribe in 1914: raised in the old traditions, skilled in silver work, and known for his prowess in the horse races. But times are changing. He meets Slim Girl, who has an "American" education and questionable reputation, and despite warnings from his family, he marries her. Inevitably, their different up-bringsings clash, and their relationship is thrown into turmoil. Compelling in its strength and simplicity, "Laughing Boy" gives us a look at both the Navajo culture and the enduring legacy of tradition, love and loss.

Dec. 16: "There There," by Tommy Orange (2020). This fast-paced novel follows 12 Native Americans, connected to one another in ways they may not realize, as they plan to attend the Oakland Powwow. Among them is Jacquie Red Feather, newly sober and trying to make it back to the family she left behind; Dene Oxendene, pulling his life together and working at the powwow to honor his uncle's memory; and the boy Orvil, coming to perform a traditional dance for the first time. This chorus of voices tells the plight of today's urban Native Americans, with their inheritance of beauty and spirituality—grappling with a complex and painful history, with sacrifice and heroism.

Adult Sunday School

Sharing/Family Life: 9:30-11 a.m. Sundays in Room 17/18 or via Zoom. Co-leaders: Rick Farnsworth and Terry Majewski On five Sundays starting Sept. 4 you'll have the opportunity to begin understanding more clearly God's dream for your life. Life can often feel like a scattering of random events. The various choices, opportunities, or even pain we experience seem to have no real purpose or connection. But if we pay attention to God's work, our lives tell a different story. In **The Big Picture: Seeing God's Dream for Your Life**, Rev. Nicole and Dr. Jevon Caldwell-Gross invite us to connect the dots of triumph and trauma in our lives to discover God's presence by studying the study of Joseph in Genesis.

Seekers: 11:15 a.m. Sundays in Room 17/18 and via Zoom Led by Brenda Hunter and Kelly Deyoe. After taking the Labor Day holiday off, this Bible study class will start its study of the book of Ezra on Sept. 11. This class is open to everyone including drop-ins. No study book is required, and Bibles are available in the classroom.

Wednesday Morning Study Group

10-11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 7, Room 17/18 and via Zoom On Sept. 7, the Wednesday Morning Study Group will begin the six-week video study, **15 Essential Biblical Texts**, by NT Wright. The now-retired Anglican Bishop Wright admits it was a struggle to limit the selection to only 15 texts but with the help of the convergence of certain themes, he was able to select those that help make sense of who we are and what we think Christians are about. Each class will listen and respond to two of the 15 video texts, with the sixth class discussing the last three. No book is required.
Class Facilitator: Marcia Rostad

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. Sept. 13 and 27 at the Dove Mountain Brew Pub, 12130 N. Dove Mountain Blvd. Drop in, escape the heat and enjoy the discussion and company of others.

Latin/Hispanic Heritage Month is Sept. 15 - Oct. 15

Very early in the morning on Sept. 16, 1810, the bells of the church in Dolores (now Dolores Hidalgo, Guanajuato) rang, gathering the congregation from their beds into the plaza. Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla gave an impassioned speech, urging people to take up arms against the corrupt and morally reprehensible Spanish Crown. This is called the *Grito de Dolores*. Hundreds of years of colonization, changes in regime, seculariza-



Church & Society

tion of government, and many more reasons made Mexicans from all walks of life displeased with their government. While the relative success of the Hidalgo revolt can be debated, Mexican leaders in other parts of New Spain were inspired and emboldened by Hidalgo's *Grito* and went to war. Eleven years of bloody, terrible fighting followed, and on Sept. 27, 1821, Mexico won its independence from Spain. Not too long after, Sept. 16 was declared a national holiday. On the eve of the 16th, the *Grito* is performed to commemorate the bravery of Independence fighters. Although what Hidalgo actually said is lost to time, the celebratory version of the *Grito* typically ends with: ¡Viva la Independencia Nacional! ¡Viva México! ¡Viva México! ¡Viva México!

Arizonans have celebrated Mexican Independence Day since 1821, throwing large parades and parties called Fiestas Patrias. After 1848 (or 1854, depending on where you are in Arizona!), these celebrations were colored by both the Mexican and American flags. This "borderlands patriotism" reinforced the cultural and historic connections between the United States and Mexico. During National Hispanic Heritage Month, the U.S. government celebrates the countless contributions of more than 60 million Latino and Hispanic Americans to our culture and society. Latin/Hispanic Americans are the largest minority group in the United States today and have consistently helped make our country strong and prosperous. Latin/Hispanic Americans embody the best of our American values, including hard work, resilience, perseverance, patriotism and commitment to faith and family. For more information, visit the St. Mark's Racial Equity Latin Descent web page at

<https://umcstmarks.org/racial-equity/racial-equity-resources/>.

In recognition of **Latin/Hispanic Heritage Month**, we will host a study of the book, **The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong**. In the book, Karen Gonzalez discusses the Bible stories of people who have crossed borders and sought refuge. People like Hagar, Joseph, Ruth, and Jesus. She masterfully interweaves these stories with stories of her own family fleeing Guatemala and immigrating to the United States. Through these stories we will learn how we are called to welcome immigrants into the family of God. We will meet for three weeks from 6:30-8 p.m. Mondays via Zoom beginning Sept. 26. Judy Boroto and Joylee Gathings will lead the class on behalf of Church & Society and Adult Spiritual Growth.

10th Annual Blessing of the Animals

The St. Mark's Animal Ministry Team is excited to bring you the 10th annual Blessing of the Animals. The service will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 9, on the labyrinth of our Meditation Gardens. As always, this event is open to members of the community, so be sure to invite friends and family! Those who don't feel their pet is suited to attending are welcome to bring a photo instead. All pets should be on leashes, in carriers, or the equivalent.



A freewill offering will be taken for Cody's Friends, a local organization whose mission is to support people in need with pets, human service organizations, animal rescue groups and shelters. Hope to see you there!

Help Needed for Alternative Christmas Story

Maybe you have never thought about telling our beautiful Christmas story in a new way but a women's group that I (Evy McDonald) have been part of for several years challenged me to write a play that would convey the essence of the Biblical narrative in a way that would speak to both those familiar with the story and those who may have never heard it. What a wonderful opportunity! So, I wrote "A Groovy Christmas Dream" while I was in East Kenya with the Maasai community. I pray that you will experience Jesus' birth in a contemporary, and yet familiar, way.

The play is set in the 1960s and starts with Grandma reading the biblical account to her grandchildren. At one point she is interrupted and asked, "Grandma, you told us that Jesus' light is reborn every year. Was Jesus really with you when you were driving around in that old VW bus you showed us pictures of?" When Grandma goes to sleep she has a dream and experiences the answer to her grandson's question – and then the story begins.

Before that can happen, though, I NEED you!! The play will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17. Rehearsals will begin from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday Nov. 5 and will continue Saturdays, Nov. 5, 12, 19, and Dec. 3 and 10. Dress rehearsal will be at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16. You do need to be able to commit to the first rehearsal and dress rehearsal where everyone needs to attend.

This is a call to join in the fun. Allison Talavera, who has been in numerous productions in Tucson, will help direct the play. We need actors of all ages. No previous acting experience needed, just a desire to be part of a group of individuals who want to bring the Christmas story to life. Also needed will be a set crew to move items on and off stage and those who would like to create or find the props that will be needed. A huge thank-you to Anita Wilson, who will be leading the costume and prop team.

Please call or email:

Evy McDonald: (see church directory)

Allison Talavera: (call church office for contact info)



Come Join the Rainbow Team! The St. Mark's Rainbow Fellowship is pleased to announce that monthly meetings are now open to ANYONE (LGBTQIA, allies, family, friends, and everyone else) who would like to join us in conversation. And I have to tell you, you're really missing out on some good discussion if you don't join us! No matter who you are, feel free to pop in during our next meeting at 9 a.m. Sept. 18 in the 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.

Kitchen Orientation

Planning to use the St. Mark's kitchen for an event? Kitchen users must complete the Kitchen Orientation prior to using it. First, watch the kitchen video, which can be found under "Resources" on the St. Mark's website.

Second, contact the office to sign up for the on-site orientation. The next orientations will take place Sundays, Sept. 4 and Sept. 18.

With events using the kitchen such as Primavera meals and Soul Station, be sure to complete your training as soon as possible. On-site orientations are held twice a month.

Volunteers Needed for Holiday Meals

Before COVID disrupted our lives, St. Mark's hosted a Thanksgiving potluck and a Christmas Eve potluck soup luncheon. There has been some interest in having these potlucks this year. However, we will need volunteers to help in order to move forward with planning these events. If you would be willing to assist as a co-chair, help organize food, set up for the event, do communications, bake a turkey or clean up afterwards, please notify the church office as soon as possible. We cannot hold these events without at least five volunteers for each event. These are both potluck events so sign-up sheets for food would be posted closer to the event.

Save the Date for Spaghetti Dinner

The next St. Mark's United Women in Faith drive-through spaghetti dinner will be from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7. You can pick up a meal of spaghetti and meatballs, salad, roll and dessert. A vegetarian option will be available as well. Meals will be prepared and packaged in spillproof containers by St. Mark's UWF. You can just drive through and pick up your meal(s) that evening without leaving your car. Proceeds and donations support missions in Tucson and around the world. Pre-order forms will be available in September. Watch the Sunday bulletin and Friday e-blast for additional information.

Annual Church Conference



Our Annual Church Conference will be held **at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24** in person. Our district superintendent, Rev. Matt Ashley, will lead us in the annual business meeting. All are welcome to attend; church members may vote. Save the date!



Our next new member class, Membership 101, will take place Sept. 10, with them joining on the 11th. Class will include lunch and tour of the campus. To register, sign up here: <https://umcstmarks.org/classes/exploring-membership/>

Hang with Younger Adults at Common Grounds

Common Grounds at St. Mark's is a really fun group of people who tend to be in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. Some of us are married, some are not, some have kids, some do not. But we all have a Common Ground of our faith, and our care for one another. We meet from 6-8 p.m. the third Saturday of each month in the church library for a time of fellowship and faith. Some months, we play games; sometimes we have programs, and sometimes we just chat! It's always a relaxing time with each other. Coffee is provided, and we have a side dish/appetizer potluck to snack on. On Sept. 17, join us for a paint night! All materials will be provided. Please RSVP to Rachel, rachel@umcstmarks.org, by Sept. 10 so she can make sure we have enough materials for everyone. (Please come, even if you didn't get a chance to RSVP – we will share!) Child care will be provided in room 15.

Soul Station: Midweek Fun, Fellowship, Study!

If you're in Tucson, we invite you at 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday to come to the Fellowship Hall, to share a meal and great conversation. At 6:10 p.m., our online friends join us on Zoom, so both groups can celebrate Holy Communion "together" at 6:15. (Those who are online should have bread or cracker and juice with you.) Following Communion, there will be a topic for the evening.

CHILDREN are always welcome at St. Mark's. Soul Station is no exception. Starting Sept. 7, children will be dismissed after Holy Communion, to go to Room 8/9 for their own activities. Join two members of our Children's Ministries staff for things like games, videos, and crafts.

Kids, you need to bring your parents to Soul Station, so you can see your church friends in the middle of the week!



Desert Southwest Annual Conference Report, Part 3

This is the final portion of the Lay Report from Annual Conference.

An important piece of Annual Conference is the passing of various legislation relating to the DSAC. This legislation covers everything from the financial interests of the Conference to the rules that determine how the Conference is managed to various position statements the Conference desires to make. Every year there is a slate of legislation called the "Consent Calendar," which is made up of recommendations and resolutions that are generally considered to be non-controversial and are voted on as a group. This year's Consent Calendar contained items relating to clergy pension plans, sick leave for Conference employees, clergy health care, housing allowances, and more. One recommendation regarding a compensation increase at the base level of clergy pay was requested by Pastor Stuart to be removed from the Consent Calendar for further discussion. (Making such a change requires the vote of at least 30 people – in person or by Zoom. The vote easily exceeded the 30 needed.) The remainder of the Consent Calendar passed, and after a healthy discussion, the recommendation on clergy minimum salary passed separately.



Desert Southwest Conference
The United Methodist Church

Building on recent tragic events involving firearms across the country, the Conference passed a resolution put forward by the Gun Violence Awareness Task Force. The resolution requires that all areas of the Annual Conference be gun-free zones. It also reminds all churches in the Conference that a resolution previously passed in 2018 requires all churches to be gun-free campuses.

One remaining piece of significant legislation was drafted and passed in short order during the last plenary session. News had quickly spread through the United Methodist Church community about this year's group of candidates for commissioning in the Florida Annual Conference. Their Board of Ordained Ministry had approved a slate of 16 candidates for commissioning as provisional candidates. The Florida Conference Clergy Session votes on the slate as a single unit. Usually the clergy follow the recommendation of their BOOM, but this year the slate was rejected because two of the candidates identify as LGBTQIA. The statement approved by the DSAC declares that we stand in unity with the candidates for commissioning in Florida and the BOOM. It reaffirmed

that the DSAC is "a Safe Harbor to any candidate or clergy who seeks it" and that we continue to support the queer members of our conference.

One of the highlights of Annual Conference is the worship services. We all know that streamed services might not have the same impact as in-person services, but the conference did a very good job with excellent musicians and preaching. The first service was Thursday morning where Rev. Dr. Brook Isingoma pointed out that the invitation is always before us to choose life OR cynicism and apathy. Thursday evening Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner led A Service of Memorial, in which those who had passed to new life this past year were honored. The Saturday morning worship included a homily from Pastor Deontez Wimby where he encouraged us to consider the difference between being busy and being productive; to think about what it means

to live, and to take time to rest. For many of us, the BEST worship is the Saturday evening Service of Commissioning and Ordination. It is usually done in a "high church style" (which is another way of saying that it is very formal). Bishop Grant Hagiya led the service, and in his sermon reminded us to remember whose we are, and how that affects how we live our lives.

Lastly, it is always a sad time when church closings are announced, and there were two this year. The Korean UMC of Las Vegas closed effective June 30. The membership had been declining even before the pandemic, and then their longtime pastor retired. The remaining congregants will transfer to other UM churches. Aldersgate UMC closed effective June 30, after 71 years of providing ministry to the community. Aldersgate will continue to build a legacy since it will become a second site for Day Spring UMC, with all assets being transferred to Day Spring UMC. The remaining members of Aldersgate will transfer their membership to Day Spring UMC. While it's disheartening to see church closures, this one seemed to have a silver lining to it.

As always, we thank the congregation of St. Mark's for giving us the honor of serving as lay delegates to Annual Conference. Despite this report's length, we know we did not cover everything that happened, or that you might be interested in. Please feel free to ask us any questions.

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

Missions Committee Update

In August, the Missions Committee approved disbursements to our mission partners as follows:

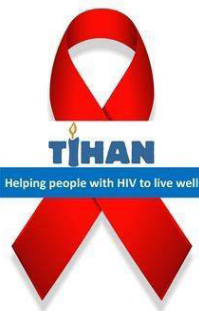
- \$1,000 to the Thornhill Lopez Center – This center on Fourth Avenue is a SAAF (Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation) place for LGBTQ+ and allied youth ages 13-24 to visit to access a variety of services to support their health and well-being. According to the Human Rights Campaign, less than 50% of LGBTQ+ youth say they have an adult in their family that they can turn to for help. The Thornhill Lopez Center provides the needed assistance.
- \$2000 to TMM Family Services Inc. – Escaping poverty begins with secure housing. TMM Family Services is a longtime mission partner of St. Mark's. Its focus is to provide quality, affordable housing and support services to vulnerable, at-risk individuals and families. It offers a variety of services that encourage independence, rebuild lives, and provide a pathway out of poverty.

Your support of St. Mark's provides the funding for us to work with and help our wonderful mission partners. Thank you!

John Yost, Missions Committee Chair

Donations Needed for TIHAN Poz Cafe

Well, Thanksgiving is coming! WHAT!!! Is this a department store ad?? jAY! jAY! jChihuahua! Calm down... Let us explain: TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network), one of our longstanding mission partners, offers a Thanksgiving dinner and a CarePackage* to each of its CarePartners**. St. Mark's is one of three faith communities to provide this to-go-meal-plus, so we need to collect 400 rolls of toilet paper, 135 boxes of facial tissue (AKA Kleenex), 135 bars/containers of hand soap, 50 bottles of dish detergent and 10 Bingo prizes. **IN SEPTEMBER WE ARE FOCUSING ON TP AND KLEENEX.** Please bring some TP or Kleenex to the courtyard, the church office or to the Tuesday ICS collections. Many of TIHAN'S CarePartners live on about \$1,000 per month or less. (*CarePackages contain items that cannot be purchased with food stamps and **CarePartners are TIHAN "clients.") Thank you and don't buy the turkey yet.



Blessings! *The HIV/AIDS Committee*

Meet Our Refugee Neighbor, Zainab

Our new St. Mark's partner, Tucson Refugee Ministries, has given me a wonderful experience to help a young Afghani girl who newly arrived in Tucson in February. Zainab is 11 years old from Kabul, Afghanistan. She was enrolled at Doolen Middle School in TUSD. The school district is currently struggling to keep up the number of children needing bused to and from school. TRM network readily reaches out looking for volunteers to help fill the need in the moment. I was contacted to help this young one to get to



school until she could get on the bus schedule.

I learned about Zainab on our short drives to school every day. I learned she speaks three languages: Dari, Pashtu, and a little Arabic. Of course she forgot, she speaks English too! Zainab is a refugee with nine other family members in a small house. Her mother and older sister are working in housekeeping at a local hotel. Her older brother is in high school and her younger brothers are in elementary school. Her father could not yet come, because he was ill when they were evacuated. Can you pray with me that he can come soon?

As driving together was delightful and fun for the both of us, I became aware that the bus schedule would not be adding her soon. So we came up with a solution. Would your mother let you ride a bike to school? Of course!

Helping Zainab get a bike was so exciting for her and refreshing for me. She can now ride herself to school every day and sometimes let her brothers have a spin.

TRM is always looking for volunteers to meet the need of the moment for our resident refugees to get on their feet and find community. I'm looking forward to what is next in being of service. Our partner contact is John Yost, or you can contact TRM directly to start orientation.

Serving with you, Linda Martino



Missions news continued on page 9

Youth Ministry

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



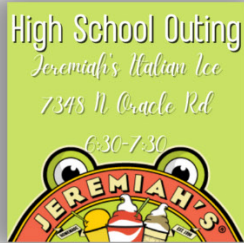
Youth Group Calendar grades 6-12



No Youth Group

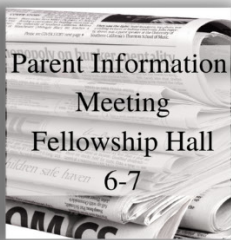
Sept. 4

Sept. 11



Sept. 18

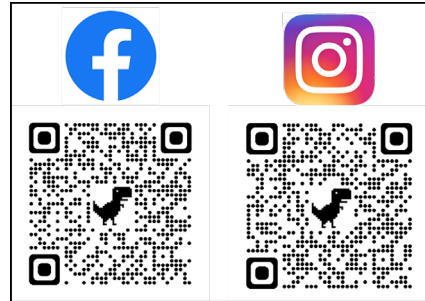
Sept. 25 AM



Sept. 25 PM

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!

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

On Friday, Aug. 19, 14 youth and two adults from St. Mark's drove up to watch the Diamondbacks take on the Cardinals at the Diamondbacks Faith and Family Night. We met students from St. James UMC and Desert Skies UMC at the game and had a great time with our fellow South District Youth! After the game (don't ask who won...), we all stuck around for a really fun concert by Switchfoot! Then we all rolled out our sleeping bags at the Wesley Center and slept before waking up and doing a service project there. It was a great time of fellowship, faith, and service.

ADVENTURES IN ACTION

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS - 4PM TO 6PM
ROOM 9 - FRIENDS ALWAYS WELCOME!



DISCOVER THE PARABLES
JESUS SAID WHAT?



NO MEETING SEPT. 4
FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND



SEPT. 11 - TEAM WORK
GAME NIGHT - KAHOOT! & MORE



SEPT. 18 - MYSTERY OF FAITH
HUMAN CLUE!



SEPT. 25
MOVIE NIGHT

Youth Ministry

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



WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP

Chocolate Milkshake Day 4-6 p.m. Sept. 11

There isn't much better than a good milkshake, is there!? Join us to make some amazing milkshakes. Don't like chocolate!? No big deal. We will have so many options! Pastor Lynn will also be joining us during youth group to help us plan the amazing worship service we will lead on Sept. 25. If you would like a part in the worship service, be sure to be here on the 11th, or contact me beforehand!

Gaga Ball 4-6 p.m. Sept. 18

Rachel keeps hearing about this great game, Gaga Ball – we gotta try it! But we can't be normal, so of course it'll be Gaga Ball with a twist! We will meet at the Wesley House and walk over to the Fellowship Hall for our indoor Gaga Ball game together. Come see who wins!

Youth Lead Worship 10 a.m. Sept. 25

One of my favorite things about St. Mark's is how supportive we are of our youth. We are so lucky to have this amazing church family that loves and supports us! On Sept. 25, we get to lead the 10 a.m. worship service! If you attended SSP this year, please wear your T-shirt. If you have our South District shirt from last year, wear it. If you don't have either, that's fine too! If you are interested in helping with the service, please talk to Rachel, and come help us plan on Sept. 11!

Thank-You BBQ 4-6 p.m. Sept. 25

Our Taco Tuesday on a Sunday was such a success, I figured we should do it again! Our parents do so much for us, and we would love to thank them for it! Meet Rachel in the Wesley House at 4 p.m. We will walk over to the Fellowship Hall together and cook a delicious BBQ for our parents. Parents, you are invited to come at 5:30 for a yummy BBQ dinner, and then stay for our parent information meeting!

Youth 2023 July 25-28, 2023 Daytona Beach, Florida

Save the Date! Every four years, the United Methodist Church puts on an amazing event for youth from around the country. With workshops, live worship, and amazing musical talent, this is an event you do NOT want to miss. For more information, go to <https://www.umcyoungpeople.org/youth2023>.

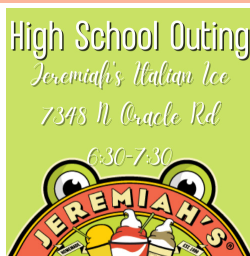
STICKERS!!

Stickers are a fun way to show off things that you like and let everyone know what you are into and your hobbies. It's why I love Dutch Bros. Every month, I make sure to head over and get my sticker, so everyone knows how caffeinated I am! Don't forget that each month in the Wesley House, we have a new sticker! This last month, we had a GREAT Back-to-School sticker designed by Kevin. Want to see September's sticker? You'll have to come to Sunday School on the 4th! :-)

HIGH SCHOOL OUTING

6:30-7:30 p.m. Sept. 11

Attention high school students! Have you checked out the new Italian Ice place, Jeremiah's!? It's so fun! High school students are invited to meet up there for a time of connecting, conversation, and delicious Italian Ice!



PARENT MEETING

6-7 p.m. Sept. 25

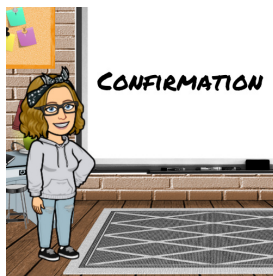
Interested in finding out about the exciting things at St. Mark's Youth this year? We have some really exciting summer opportunities this year that you will definitely want to learn more about. Come join Rachel right after our Thank You BBQ for information on all things youth. Sunday School, youth group, fundraisers, service opportunities, trips, and more! Bring your questions and your excitement!



CONFIRMATION

10-11 a.m. beginning Sept. 11

It's almost time for a new Confirmation class! Confirmation here at St. Mark's is a class offered to anyone in eighth grade or higher, who has not yet been confirmed. We meet each Sunday from Sept. 11-May 14 during the Sunday School hour to learn about what it means to be a member at St. Mark's. If you are interested in joining, contact Rachel.



YOUTH MISSIONS

Missions are so important here at St. Mark's! During our youth meetings, I usually plan one or two service Sundays during our time, and we always have a good time doing these service projects! I am always happy to sign for service hours if you are in NJHS, NHS, or other programs that require it. We also have big summer mission opportunities, so stay tuned for those!

September Birthdays



- Sept. 3—**Lucy Newell**
- Sept. 3—**Rachel Mosher (Youth Director)**
- Sept. 9—**Daniel Titzel**
- Sept. 11—**Charlotte Chester**
- Sept. 21—**Tristan Turner**



Missions Ministry

Volunteer Opportunity

Are you ready to join other volunteers to help the teachers and staff at Nash Elementary School? The past few years have left our schools short-staffed and with many needs. Typically, volunteering has not started until after Labor Day, but all volunteers must be vaccinated and be fingerprinted by Amphitheater Public Schools for a background check. This can take a few weeks. I was a classroom volunteer for many years and the experience was extremely rewarding. In fact, I am still in contact with two of the families I met while volunteering at Nash. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail Carol Nadeau at (see church directory).

Thank You

The Nash Neighbors Committee thanks the congregation for its generous donations of school supplies. Your donations included, but were not limited to: 58 canisters of sanitizing wipes, 27 bottles of hand sanitizer, 524 glue sticks, 326 dry erase markers, 235 erasers, 135 student scissors, 50 boxes of Kleenex, 814 pencils. The supplies were delivered to Nash Elementary on Aug. 1 in time for school to start. The school staff expressed gratitude for our partnership with them. Thank you again for your generosity.

ICS Food Bank Collection Update

We continue to collect non-perishable food donations from 10-11 a.m. every Tuesday and Saturday in the north parking lot of the church for the food bank at Interfaith Community Services. You can also drop off your donations off at the church office. This has been an amazing ministry for St. Mark's over the last 2 1/2 years. We have donated more than 53,000 lbs. of food, which has helped thousands of people in our community. Thanks be to God! **Our featured donation item for September is boxes of macaroni and cheese.** It is relatively inexpensive and loved by both adults and children.

Help Pack Emergency Food Boxes



Aug. 12:
22 pallets
40 boxes per pallet
=880 boxes
26,000 lbs. of food

Our next trip to the Southern Arizona Community Food Bank is 7:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 23. Hopefully we can reserve the van for that morning. All are welcome!

Primavera Meal Teams Needed

Cornbread and cupcakes along with a cornucopia of other scrumptious delights were a tremendous hit at the Primavera Men's Shelter on Saturday, July 30!



The creative and organized meal team providing this loving service consisted of Janice Shelton, Don Brown, Mary Feldsien, Brenda Hunter, Bill and Cara Zermuehlen, Harold Putt and Bob and Marge Sogn.

Being on a meal team is a great opportunity to be blessed to be a blessing and show the love of God through a hot, home-cooked meal. And the cooking and fellowship is a lot of fun too!

Please sign up today for the open slots of Saturday, Sept. 10, Saturday, Oct. 8, Saturday, Oct. 29 and Saturday, Nov. 12. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/PrimaveraMeals>

St. Mark's Financial Report: 'Sow a Seed, Grow the Kingdom'

St. Mark's income during July was \$86,840 while expense was \$83,141. The resulting net income of \$3,699 has been reflected in the year-to-date numbers below:

	Actual	Budget	Plus/Minus
Income	\$716,002	\$580,085	135,917
Expense	586,500	696,575	(110,075)
Net Income	\$129,502	(\$116,490)	

Actual net income through July of \$129,502 puts St. Mark's in a good financial position to get through the difficult summer months. Your generous contributions and the committees' ability to control expenses are showing results. The \$48,600 received in May for the Employee Retention Credit also helped.

The Finance Committee is making good progress on the 2023 Stewardship Campaign, "Sow a Seed, Grow the Kingdom," which is taken from Matthew 13:31-32. The campaign will begin Sunday, Oct. 2 with the first of five videos. There will be more about the campaign in the next Messenger. I think you will enjoy "Sow a Seed, Grow the Kingdom."

Bill Zermuehlen, Finance Chair

September 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."

Equip Yourself to Serve

There is a growing community of Lay Servants here at St. Mark's UMC. Have you ever wondered why or what they do as Lay Servants? The Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course focuses on the many ways Lay Servants are called to be in ministry through such things as teaching, leading, serving, disciple-making, storytelling, preaching, and growing through personal spiritual formation. Lay Servant Ministries offers a wide variety of training for individuals to help them become aware of their particular gift or gifts. Lay Servant also provides training opportunities and experiences to equip you to realize and respond to your personal call to ministry. Talk to any of the Lay Servants here at St. Mark's and hear what they say they got out of Lay Servant training. There is a Lay Servant Basic Class coming up on Dec. 3 and 10 at Santa Cruz Valley UMC in Sauharita. Register for classes at this link: <https://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions/>. For more information contact Kelly Deyoe at (see church directory).

Kelly Deyoe, South District Director of Lay Servant Ministries

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*



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...

The **Deyoe family** is extremely grateful for all the love and grace we received from the St. Mark's family after the passing of our mother Jessie. The cards, calls, and food were greatly appreciated. We would like to give special thanks to Pastor Stuart and Pastor Lynn for the time they spent with our family. Words can't express our gratitude for that. And special thanks to Kay Hayworth and her committee for the luncheon they put on. We have felt showered with your love. Thank you.

My heartfelt thanks for the many cards, calls, and emails I received following my surgery. Your prayers and caring thoughts have helped in my healing and recovery. My heart is filled with gratitude to be a part of this loving caring church family. —Pat Adams

Advanced Lay Servant Class to be Taught at St. Mark's

Lay Servant Ministries is offering an advanced class, "Lay Pastoral Care Giving," right here at St. Mark's on Oct. 15 and 17. Because this is an advanced class, preference is given to current Lay Servants, but anyone can sign up. This course offers insights into the lifespan and the dynamics of contemporary life to help church leaders reach out with God's love and care to others. It includes discussions of active listening and visiting techniques as well. Register for classes at this link: <https://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions/>. For more information contact Kelly Deyoe at (see church directory)

Food Packaging Event is Returning to Fellowship Hall

This year, National Day of Service, Sept. 11, is on a Sunday. Isn't that the perfect time for us to come together to fight hunger? For several years, we have had a relationship with an organization called Rise Against Hunger. Their mission is to provide meals for people in isolated places, where food is not readily available. Beginning at 11 a.m. Sept. 11, we will pack more than 20,000 meals. When volunteer packers arrive in the Fellowship Hall at that time, the tables will be set up, the materials will be meticulously set up, and the event will take off with the precision of a NASA launch. Part of that precision depends on well-planned shifts, as follows:

10-11 a.m.: set up
11a.m. to 12:30 p.m. First shift to pack meals *
12:30-2 p.m. Second shift to pack meals *
2-3 p.m. Clean up

*Notice that, in the interest of safe spacing, we have decided to do two shifts this time. Contact Kim Ogle (520-297-2062 or kim@umcstmarks.org) to volunteer or inquire.

The Food Truck Party - On a Roll with God has Left the Campus

We ran out of room to include this in the last Messenger!

Vacation Bible School (with a twist this year) ran from July 13-15 and was attended by children and adults of all ages. Each night everyone enjoyed a delicious meal provided by the United Women in Faith and the Marksmen with lots of good conversation and fellowship before the adults broke off for their studies and the children moved into the Sanctuary for music with Hannah and an opening skit featuring Top Chef Julie (Eblen) and DJ Cookie (Heather Fish). While the adults were enjoying either a Scripture study or the Parenting Conversations group, the kids were learning about how God provides for us. Top Chef Julie and DJ Cookie served up lessons and Daily Specials from the "Food Truck - On a Roll with God." The first Daily Specials that the young chefs learned about were "God is Great" and "God is Good." On the second night, the Daily Special was "Let us thank God for our Food." On the final night the Food Truck's Daily Special was "By His hands we all are fed" and "Give us Lord our Daily bread." The young chefs also enjoyed Bible stories and video clips (with their amazing St. Mark's Sunday School teachers), crafts with Miss Heather and even got to mix up their own Honey Coriander Manna Bread, make funny vegetable faces and go on a scavenger hunt to find people willing to share what they had to make trail mix with Cathy Harris-Herchenroeder. Norah Mosher said, "I really thought it was cool how we got to see the process of making the manna bread in science and getting the stuff for the trail mix." VBS with a Twist concluded on Friday night with street tacos, burritos and quesadillas from Taco Totys Food Truck and each family receiving a prayer cube from Pastor Lynn. Top Chef Julie and DJ Cookie declared all of the young chefs newly appointed "Top Chefs" ready to plan their own Daily Specials with God. Special thanks to Counselor-in-Residence Liesel Scalzitti, Ph.D., Early Childhood Center Director Laurie Walsh and Pastor Lynn for leading the parenting discussions and to the Adult Spiritual Growth Committee for putting together and leading the adult Scripture study and to the many volunteers who helped make this year's VBS a Fabulous Food Truck Party.

Thank You, VBS Volunteers!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this year's Vacation Bible School with a Twist an amazing success. A special thanks to the United Women in Faith and the Marksmen for providing dinner for all participants and their families. Dinner was a great time of fellowship before breaking into our groups for learning and activities. Adult groups were led by the pastors and the Adult Spiritual Growth Committee, Liesl Scalzitti, Ph.D., and Laurie Walsh. The children were led by our amazing Sunday School teachers (Pam Howard, Kathy Hale, Barb Sargent, Heather Fish) with special assistance from Cathy Harris-Herchenroeder, Hannah Eblen, Nick Hiratsuka, Sue Davis and our teen volunteers. St. Mark's is truly blessed to have such amazing volunteers! Thank you everyone.

Julie Eblen, Children and Family Ministries Coordinator

2022-2023 Concert Series Kicks Off This Month

Our new Music Ministries Coordinator, Jordan Shomper, has already scheduled a series of concerts to take place at St. Mark's this fall, winter and spring!

The first concert is Renee Bond of The Silverwood Duo performing at 3 p.m. Sept. 25 in the Sanctuary.

The next event is Tucson Concert Band at 3 p.m. Oct. 2, also in the Sanctuary.

A freewill offering will be collected at both performances, with 20% of the proceeds going into the St. Mark's Concert Fund.



Address Service Requested

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

Reflections

Change is hard.
Ever move furniture and have to re-orient yourself to where things are in the room?
Ever move houses and try to find what you're looking for after you are unpacked?!?
Ever tried to figure out new habits when your kids go to a new school?
Ever tried to figure out how to eat on a new diet?

Change is hard. Yet, we do it all the time. You get rid of clothes and get new ones. You replace hearing aid batteries. You find a new hair dresser. You buy a new car. You welcome a new baby to the family. You start a new grade in school or welcome a new group of students to your class. Change may be hard, but it can be good.

As we are moving into a changed world after the pandemic, we at St. Mark's have an opportunity to question who we are and where we are going. We have a chance to change our focus— no more reacting but instead being proactive. We have a chance to change some habits to intentionally reach people who are hungering for God. We have a chance to change some habits to invite us all to deepen our walk with Jesus.

It's with this in mind that Covenant Council has entered a relationship with Ministry Architects for a strategic planning process that will help us to tweak what we do to reach new people and to continue to grow in our discipleship. I believe they will discover what I have discovered: St. Mark's is a strong, vibrant church of committed Christians who long to grow in their discipleship and service to others. I believe they will affirm our servant heart — seeking to serve those less fortunate than

we are, in the name of Christ. I believe they will affirm our discipleship heart— seeking to grow in our faith life through study and small groups. I believe they will affirm we have many gifts to offer the community around us and to one another.

But through their work, I believe they will also help us laser-focus on what is next to expand our reach. They will lead us through an onsite assessment, a systems check, a vision summit, and more. They will help us create plans for strategic staffing, for communications, for scheduling the year. They will chair a Renovation Team of church leaders who will lead us in implementing our three-year goals. We are excited about this work that we are embarking on this month.

We need your help.
Watch your email for an invitation to an online survey Ministry Architects is offering. We would like 100% of the church to participate. Watch your email for an invitation to listening groups.

And then pray. Pray for Bryant and Annette as they lead our Listening Groups this month. Pray for safe travels for them and for God's Spirit to open their ears as we share. Pray for our church as we situate ourselves to continue our good work here in the name of Christ. Pray for God's wisdom to be revealed as we seek vision for the future. Pray for one another in our journey.

See you soon.
Pastor Lynn