

# Messenger

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

St. Mark's  
United Methodist

## It's Pumpkin Season!

The pumpkins are coming! The pumpkins are coming! Around the middle of September, I always feel a little like Charlie Brown, telling everyone about the Great Pumpkin (Patch). But it's so exciting, I can't help it! The patch has changed a lot since we started it in 1997, but even more HASN'T changed! For one, I'm still out there! We still sell beautiful pumpkins, based on size. We still use the profits to support both our youth group and youth missions. It is still a great way to get to know other members of the congregation and community.



The Pumpkin Patch here at St. Mark's has really become an outreach. Frequently, when people ask me what church I go to, and I describe our location, they respond with "Oh! The one with the Pumpkin Patch! We go every year!" It has been wonderful to watch this fundraiser grow and evolve into such a community outreach, and an invitation for families to come on to our campus.

The pumpkin patch also has become a wonderful, all-church event every year! There are so many ways for people to help and be involved. The pumpkins will be delivered this year on October 15. We have not received the time yet, but are hoping for morning. If you

haven't seen the pumpkins be unloaded, you are in for a treat! It's so fun to see the pumpkins be handed down the long lines, with everyone getting to touch the pumpkins. From the youngest of kids to our most senior members, there is a job for everyone!

Our youth try to work at the pumpkin patch as much as they can! With their busy schedules, and school getting out so late in the day, it can be tricky. We need a lot of help, especially during the week. Being a "Pumpkin Professional" may sound daunting but anyone can do it! Your main job is to sell these orange beauties. I will train you before you start selling, so you can be sure that it'll be fun and easy! Sign up with a friend, or make a new friend with someone who signs up at the same time as you! Sign up for a shift by scanning the QR code, or you can go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094AABA623ABF85-2022>



And finally, the most FUN and EASY way to support this awesome outreach is visiting the patch, buying pumpkins, and telling all your friends about it! Questions? Contact me in the church office, 520-297-2062.

Rachel Mosher, Youth and Common Grounds Coordinator

## Thank You for Supporting Our Youth in Worship and All Year

On September 25, worship at 10:00 here at St. Mark's looked a little different! The altar was adorned with Minecraft characters. Our acolytes brought in the light using plastic Minecraft style torches. Our message and children's time were delivered by High School seniors, and there was a LOT of clapping. More clapping than I think I have ever seen in worship. My heart was so full when I walked away from worship that day. Not only because I could feel the spirit working through ALL of these leaders (from liturgists to acolytes, greeters to ushers, everyone who had a part!), but



because they were so warmly welcomed.

Leading up to the service, I told so many people about the

service, and how excited I was to see what these phenomenal students put together. I was mostly met with confused looks. "Minecraft? In church?" But the way these students pulled their world into the service was awe inspiring!

Equally awe inspiring is the support from you, the congregation. The grace when we didn't get everything exactly right, the applause after each part, the children blessing our service with their fun songs, and the smiles I saw throughout the congregation. These students are so lucky to truly have a church family. I saw many tears during the baptism, and that is a testament to the genuine care and love this congregation has for its young people.

Our youth feel loved and safe here at St. Mark's, and that they truly have a family here. Thank you. Thank you for being that for them. --Rachel Mosher

# 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 continue the fall lineup:



**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

## 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

We invite you to explore the miracles of Jesus in **Signs and Wonders** with Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament studies and Bible study author. In this six-week study starting on Sunday, October 9, Levine explores selected miracles of Jesus in historical and theological context. These are familiar stories – restoring sight to the blind, curing a paralyzed man, healing an afflicted woman and restoring life to a dead girl, walking on water, feeding of the 5,000, and raising Lazarus from the dead. For each miracle, Levine discusses not only how past witnesses would have understood the events, but also how today's readers can draw meaning from Jesus's words

## Wednesday Morning Study Group

**10-11:30 a.m. beginning Oct. 19, Room 17/18 and via Zoom.** Study: **John: The Gospel of Light and Life** by Rev. Adam Hamilton. The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. This writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name." This 6-week study will follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John and help the participant understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament. New attendees, please preregister if you wish to attend via Zoom. Please purchase your own book from your favorite resource. *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. the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Dove Mountain Brew Pub, 12130 N. Dove Mountain Blvd. Drop in and enjoy the discussion and company of others.

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.

and actions. Each week includes a video segment followed by a discussion of that week's chapter from the study book.

To communicate regarding Zoom contact information and study book availability, new attendees are requested to preregister on the ASG Sunday Patio Board or on the church website.

**Seekers: 11:15 a.m. Sundays in Room 17/18 and via Zoom** Led by *Brenda Hunter and Kelly Deyoe*. This Bible study class has been studying the book of Ezra and will soon begin Nehemiah. This class is open to everyone including drop-ins. No study book is required, and Bibles are available in the classroom.

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

Combining indigenous ancestral roots with Spanish Colonial, Mexican, and Anglo influences helped shape the culture and aesthetic of the Tucson region. Arizona was part of Mexico for longer than it has been part of the U.S., meaning that



### Church & Society

the influences of Mexican culture are distinctly felt in every corner of our city. From the art and music to the delicious food, Mexico's spirit is Tucson's soul and Latin/Hispanic American Heritage month is a good time to learn more about:

**Missions and Churches:** Early Spanish missionaries built adobe chapels and missions throughout Mexico (now Southern Arizona), including San Xavier and Tumacácori. St. Augustine Cathedral was inspired by the great Cathedral of Queretaro in Mexico. This area also boasts the oldest Anglican church in the United States (St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Tombstone) as well as the nation's only intersection having a different church at each of its four corners (Church Square in Douglas).

**Latin Culture:** The Arizona History Museum is located near the center of the Tucson Metro area and houses the stories and artifacts of Arizona personalities such as Emperor and Empress Maximilian and Carlota of Mexico. A walk through Tucson's Barrio Historico or Barrio Viejo offers a colorful look at Mexican heritage and Arizona's vibrant history. Presidio San Agustín del Tucson Museum is a re-creation of the Tucson Presidio built in 1775. Visitors travel back in time to learn about life as early Tucsonans would have lived it. For more information see VisitTucson.com. The Tucson Symphony Orchestra is presenting ¡Celebración latina!, a season-long series of concerts celebrating our community's vibrant cultural heritage.

**Food/Agriculture:** Find out more about why Tucson is a City of Gastronomy and taste the authentic flavors of Mexico with Tucson's Best 23 Miles of Mexican Food.

## Need Support? Try PFLAG!

Earlier this year in our Learn, Love, Grow Together seminar we became aware some congregants have ties to LGBTQIA folks and are seeking ways to connect with others for support and conversation in a non-threatening environment. In addition to our own Rainbow Fellowship, there is a national organization that provides such support: PFLAG (pflag.org). Founded in 1973 (by a mother in public support of her gay son), "PFLAG is the first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies." "PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression." Their efforts empower and strengthen families, while healing what is broken and working towards a fairer, just world for all. The closest chapter is in Sierra Vista ([info@pflagsierravista.org](mailto:info@pflagsierravista.org)).

Melinda Sims, Church and Society Committee/  
Rainbow Fellowship Coordinator

## Voting on Propositions in Arizona

The General Election on November 8 is probably the most important "off-year" election in the twenty-first century. In addition to voting for the principal state officials and the direction of the state and nation through the composition of their respective legislative bodies, a number of important issues have been placed on the ballot either by the Arizona Legislature or citizen petition. Some of the propositions that the Arizona Legislature has put of the ballot will, if approved, limit the powers of the people through the initiative process and make it more difficult for some people to vote.

The following are the Arizona-wide propositions that will be on the ballot. Depending where you live, there may also be local issues. The following are summaries of each proposition and their impact. All potential voters will be receiving an official pamphlet that gives the exact wording of each proposition and statements that have been submitted by groups and individuals, pro and con. We recommend you study the pamphlet to better understand these initiatives before you vote.

### Propositions proposed by the Arizona legislature that change state laws:

**Proposition 308** Repeals a law that allowed non-citizens (such as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)) to get in-state tuition

**Proposition 309** Requires addition of birth date and a state identification number (such as a driver's license) for mail-in ballots and a state photo ID (such as a driver's license) for in-person voting

**Proposition 310** Creates a state-wide sales tax for fire districts

### Propositions proposed by the Arizona legislature to change the Arizona State Constitution:

**Proposition 128** Allows the legislature to amend or repeal voter-approved measures if any part is found unconstitutional (state or federal)

**Proposition 129** Requires citizen-initiated ballot measures to have only one subject

**Proposition 130** Moves existing property tax exemptions from the state constitution to the statutes and adds exemptions for veterans

**Proposition 131** Creates the office of Lieutenant Governor to be elected in a slate with the governor who would succeed the governor if a vacancy occurs (similar to the President and Vice-President)

**Proposition 132** Requires a 60% vote to pass ballot initiatives and legislatively proposed propositions that approve taxes

### Citizen-proposed initiatives that will also be on the ballot:

**Proposition 209** Limits interest rates for health-related debts and makes adjustments in property and earning exemptions in debt collection processes (such as garnishments)

**Proposition 211** Requires disclosure of origin of large campaign contributions. Currently donors can hide their names by passing the money through another organization

Dorothy Montgomery  
Church and Society Committee



**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. Oct. 16 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](mailto:rainbow@umcstmarks.org).

## 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!



## Submit for Advent Devotional

In a blink of an eye, Advent and the holiday season will be upon us! And, with it this year will be another of our "homemade" devotionals. Everyone is invited to contribute one or more submissions. How you do it is entirely up to you. Many people choose a specific Bible passage, and go from there. Some people like to align theirs with that week's sermon topic (week of November 27: Peace, December 5: Hope, December 12: Love, and December 18: Joy). You may contribute personal stories, reflections, original poems, poems or writings of others (with proper credit, of course), photographs, drawings, and other forms of art. Sometimes a specific date has a special meaning to the individual contributing the submission, or the submission itself. If that is the case, simply make a note of that, and we'll do our best to make sure it is the devotion for that date. So that there is enough time to compile the devotional booklet and make enough copies, **THE DEADLINE FOR DEVOTIONAL SUBMISSIONS IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13**. No submissions will be accepted after that date. To make it easier for those who are compiling the booklet, the earlier you submit the devotion, the better. Your cooperation is certainly appreciated. To submit your contribution, e-mail it to [s-putt@onu.edu](mailto:s-putt@onu.edu). Questions/comments/suggestions can be sent to the same address. Thanks for your participation!



## Annual Church Conference



Our Annual Church Conference will be held **at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24** in person and via Zoom. At this meeting, we will elect church leadership, adopt ministry plans for the new year, celebrate the work we are doing with Ministry Architects, set our pastors' salaries, and more. Everyone is welcome to attend; church members may vote. Want more information? Check out this article from North District Superintendent, Rev. Dan Morley. <https://dscumc.org/blog/2022/09/19/be-a-part-of-the-conversation/>

### Please note!

The December **Messenger** newsletter will be published on Wednesday, Nov. 30. Because of the short week before that, due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the deadline to submit articles for this issue is EARLY. **The deadline has been moved up to Wednesday, Nov. 16**. Email your submissions to [messenger@umcstmarks.org](mailto:messenger@umcstmarks.org).

Meanwhile, the November newsletter is scheduled to publish on Wednesday, Nov. 2. That deadline is Oct. 25.

## 'A Groovy Christmas Dream'

Come and join in a fun way to celebrate the meaning of Christmas. This new and original play will put a new twist on the Christmas story while maintaining its true message. The play was written by Evy McDonald, a former pastor of St. Mark's, now retired. It is being co-directed by Evy and Allison Talavera. The cast is entirely from our congregation, so let's support all the actors, laugh, and experience the Christmas spirit. Mark your calendar: December 17, 3:00pm. After the show enjoy some cookies (yes, there will be some gluten free ones) and hot cocoa. No tickets required; just bring your family and friends.

If you would like to help with set design and gathering of props or set up and take down please call Allison (call church office for contact info) or Evy (see church directory).



## ***We Sent Almost 19,000 Meals to Hungry People in the Philippines***

On September 11, National Day of Service, over a hundred people, ages 5 to 87, gathered in the Fellowship Hall to package almost 19,000 dehydrated meals. That's 3,167 bags (6 servings per bag) that were carefully measured, heat sealed and boxed, to be shipped to communities in need. The project was subsidized by the St. Mark's Missions Committee, through the Change the World Fund.

The organization we work with is Rise Against Hunger, which serves people in the Philippines, Malaysia, India, South America, and other countries. Our meals were slated to go to either the Philippines or Nicaragua.

In just a few short hours, we came together, we served, and we were the hands and feet of Christ. A lot of fellowship goes on when we serve. We start out thinking that we will do something good for others, and we soon become part of the body. There's nothing else like it.

I am grateful for each of our volunteers; the Missions Committee; and the church staff, who answered numerous phone calls and helped advertise the event.

Thanks be to God.  
*Pastor Kim*



## ***Taking St. Mark's Into the Community***

The Church Growth & Hospitality Committee will be hosting a sale of logo items in the courtyard after each service on October 23rd and October 30th! We have new items to offer, including bags and drinkware. Our on-hand items are always available for purchase through the church office.

We will also be taking preorders for embroidered shirts, fleeces, and hats, which will be embroidered right here in Tucson by a small business! We only get this opportunity to twice a year!

Please visit our tables in the courtyard on October 23rd and 30th to check out all the possibilities of taking our name into the community.

## ***Emmaus Community Potluck***

AT LONG LAST, after a Covid pandemic hiatus, the St. Mark's Emmaus Community is FINALLY going to reunite! If you are a member of the Emmaus Community, please plan on joining us on Saturday, October 22 in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck. Fellowship will start at 4:30, dinner will be at 5:00, and afterwards we'll have a homily, a testimony, and share in Holy Communion. Feel free to bring your spouse and/or children. Dinnerware and beverage will be provided; please bring a dish to share. Hope to see you there!



## Missions Committee Update

Fuente de Vida Church:

In conjunction with the Latin / Hispanic Heritage Month, the Missions Committee authorized a disbursement of \$2,500 for the Fuente de Vida Church in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. Support for Fuente de Vida is an approved ministry of the Desert Southwest Conference. Prior to the pandemic, members of our congregation have gone to Agua Prieta to help in a variety of ways and we also have sold lots of their coffee with the proceeds going to support the church and their programs. Last year, our donation from St. Mark's purchased dozens of required sports uniforms and tennis shoes for their children. They were so appreciative! We have earmarked this year's donation to purchase more uniforms and shoes that the children and their families normally cannot afford.

On October 29th, St. Mark's members Kathie Barrett and Joylee Gathings will be traveling to Agua Prieta along with members of other churches to participate in a Celebration of Learning Festival at Fuente de Vida. Please keep them in your prayers.

*John Yost, Missions Committee Chair*

## Serve a Meal at Primavera

Calling all individuals who would like to serve on a Primavera Meal Team without being a part of a committee or group. If you get a hankering to throw on an apron and join 5 or 6 other like-minded individuals to cook and serve a hot meal to the men at the Primavera Men's Shelter, please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/PrimaveraMeals> or call the church office and leave your name and phone number. A team of interest is assembling for Saturday, October 29 and they need 4-5 more people.



## Refugee Kids Go to UA Game

I was one of the Teen Blast Boys Leaders with Tucson Refugee Ministry that took 26 teen refugee boys to the UA football game Sept. 10. So much fun! The boys originate from Africa, the Middle East, and Afghanistan. It was a wonderful experience. We went early and played games with them on



the campus, including flag football and water fights. Their individual journeys are unique and amazing but at the end of the day, they are becoming normal teenage Americans now. They are so smart! I cannot tell you how much working with

these kids and their parents has helped me understand the needs of others both here in Tucson and around the world. You have to get out of your chair as you are able and off of your corner.

Peace be with you always.

*John Yost*

## Bring Boxed Cereal for ICS

For the last three years, St. Mark's has been collecting food donations weekly in support of the Northwest Food Bank at Interfaith Community Services (ICS). Through our generous donations, clients seeking food bank assistance have received extra food in their baskets. In October, we are focusing on another popular item, boxed breakfast cereal. We know the importance of a healthy breakfast and our donations will help ensure clients start their day off in a good way. You can bring your donations of boxed breakfast cereal as well as other non perishable food items between 10 and 11 a.m. any Tuesday or Saturday to the north parking lot of the church, or if it is more convenient, you can drop your donations off at the church office during its business hours.

In September, a team from St. Mark's went to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona and helped produce 2,300 bags of emergency food for the need of those in S. AZ. If they weren't filling bags, they were working together to stage production for the next crew, by unpacking goods and palletizing the cans of food to be ready to pack.

Next dates are October 7, November 18 and December 2. Contact KJ Naae (see church directory) for more information.

# Youth Ministry

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



## Youth Group Calendar grades 6-12



Oct. 9

Have a great Fall Break...get ready for PUMPKINS!

Oct. 15



Oct. 16

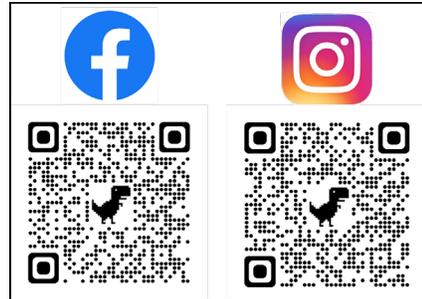
Oct. 23



Oct. 30

### 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!

### Inspiring Worship



Wow! You guys sent September out with a bang! You led an amazing Minecraft themed worship, and I can't tell you how many people have told me how spirit filled and inspiring that service was. The Holy Spirit was felt in every part of that worship service. I want to make sure you really heard what Pastor Lynn said. You youth are NOT the future of the church. You are the today AND the tomorrow of the church. You are living your witness every day, and I am so proud of you!

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



NO MEETING OCT. 9  
ENJOY YOUR FALL BREAK!



OCT. 16 - SUPER SMASH BROTHERS



OCT. 23 - MINUTE TO WIN IT GAME NIGHT



OCT. 30: HALLOWEEN PARTY SPECIAL SNACKS & MOVIE NIGHT

# Youth Ministry

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



## MASTERPIECE FESTIVAL

Every year, the Fine Arts and Crafts Guild offers the youth the opportunity to raise some money by helping at their Masterpiece Festival. This year on Nov. 5, they are also letting us sell drinks throughout the event, for a chance to raise even more! The money we make at this is split between the youth program and youth missions, so you all will benefit! Sign up with friends, and the work becomes fun!

MasterPiece Festival



## MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION

May 30-June 1, 6th-8th grade

Middle School Mission in the South District is such a phenomenal experience, year after year. This is a wonderful way for students to get a taste of a mission trip, without traveling too far from home! Students from around Southern Arizona will stay here at St. Mark's while serving local missions. Students will work in work teams with chaperones to spread God's love all around Tucson! More information coming soon.

## SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT

This year, St. Mark's took twelve students to Sierra Service Project, or SSP. Every student there had the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus. They returned to Tucson energized, and ready to witness in our own area! One of our youth, Abigail Chester was so moved, when she returned home she started a social media campaign to create awareness surrounding Friendship Park (a space we learned about during our week at SSP). She also was so energized, she applied for (and was accepted!) to be on SSP's Youth Advisory Council! Abigail, your St. Mark's family is so proud of you! Students in 8th- 12th grades, keep your eyes out for more information soon!



## SOUTH DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

### Go And Do Likewise

This year's theme for the South District is "Go and do likewise," based on the Good Samaritan Story. Our next event for youth in the South District is on Veteran's Day, November 11! Join us at the 4H/UofA High Ropes course. It's going to be such a fun event!



## YOUTH MISSIONS

Do you need hours for a program you are in? NHS? Link Crew? NJHS? Any program that needs them? Did you know that Rachel can sign for those hours!? It's true! Any Service Sunday program will get you 2 service hours! And pumpkin unloading and selling gets you hours, as well. Questions? Ask Rachel!

## WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP

**Rest Up for Pumpkins!** No youth Oct. 9

Many of you are starting your fall break on October 10. Not all of you...but a lot of you! I figure we ALL will need a break to rest and prepare for the Pumpkins coming!

**PUMPKIN DELIVERY!** October 15 Time TBA

There is something so cool about seeing our little side yard transformed into a pumpkin patch! When you arrive, it'll just look like desert with some pallets placed around...but after we all pass the pumpkins down and out of the truck, and down the long line, suddenly it's a cute little pumpkin patch, right here on the corner of La Cañada and Magee! You don't want to miss seeing this! We have a job for everyone!

**Patch Decorating Party** October 16, 4:00-6:00

Getting the pumpkins out there is only half the fun! On Sunday, October 16, come to a party like you have never seen! We will make the Pumpkin Patch perfect pretty, and don't worry, Rachel will provide the pizza and pop!

Don't forget to sign up for a slot (or 2...or 3...)

**Underground Church!** October 23, 4:00-6:00

The weather is finally cooling down enough for many of your FAVORITE Youth Group night! Join us on October 23 for Underground Church! Never played? Don't worry, you will catch on so fast! It's like Super Hide and Go Seek. It's fun for everyone!

**Pack the Pews!** October 30, 10 a.m.

Every once in a while, there are 5 Sundays in a month. Not all that often...but sometimes! When that happens (like it will in October!), on that fifth Sunday, we encourage everyone to worship together! In July, we had a youth section during the 10:00 service and it was really fun. There were glowsticks, you guys went to children's time...it was great. Let's do it again! This time let's pack the pew! Come find the youth section, bring a friend, and hang out with us for the 10:00 service!

**Halloween Happenings** October 30, 4:00-6:00

Spooky spooky Halloween time calls for a celebration! We will host a fun movie night for the PreTeen group in the Fellowship Hall. Wear your costume, bring something to sit on and bring your friends! We will watch a Halloween movie and snack on some popcorn.

## October Birthdays



- Oct. 2—**Will Bartlow**
- Oct. 4—**Declan Kogovsek**
- Oct. 17—**Olive Kirkley**
- Oct. 11—**Zachary Martin**

## O-H! I-O! Gathering

If you know that after OH, you are to say IO.. you might be from Ohio.

If you know not only the buckeye nut, but the candy recipe, you might be from Ohio.

If you have eaten walleye and perch fresh from the lake, you might be from Ohio.

If you know the Great Lakes and that getting to Canada is quickest crossing Lake Erie, you might be from Ohio.

If you know Tony Packos pickles and peppers, you might be from Ohio. Maybe even Toledo.

If Euchre was one of your favorite card games, then PLEASE join other Ohio friends for a potluck gathering and some fun in the church fellowship hall at 5 p.m. on November 13.

And, if one of your family members prefers M GO BLUE, let's invite them, too.

Michigan and Ohio friends! Please come. Casual dress, prepared to share some fun and some food and some stories! Bring your favorite Midwest 'covered dish!'

Email Donna to RSVP (see church directory).

## Save the Date: Celebrate with Sharon and Art!

When: Sunday, November 13, 2022 3-5 p.m.

Where: St. Mark's Fellowship Hall

What: Open House from 3-5 p.m. to celebrate Sharon and Art Ragland's 50th wedding anniversary and Sharon's 70th birthday.

Stop by for a piece of pie or cake or pizza. No gifts, please.

You can bring a pie to share, if you want!

For more info contact Julie Ragland at 520-979-2412



# Missions Ministry

## Support for Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse

For October, St. Mark's is featuring one of our great mission partners, Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse. Emerge is the leading provider of services for those needing this help in Southern Arizona. It has helped more than 7,000 people in the last 12 months. A staggering number. As part of our support for Emerge this month, we are collecting baby items in the courtyard during services the first two Sundays of October. Suggested donation items are diapers of all sizes, baby wipes, and rash cream. Thank you for your help!



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

St. Mark's income during August was \$70,859 while expense was \$93,552. The resulting net loss of (\$22,693) has been reflected in the year-to-date numbers below:

	Actual	Budget	Plus/Minus
Income	\$786,861	\$662,954	123,907
Expense	680,052	795,339	(115,287)
Net Income	\$106,809	(\$132,385)	

Even with the (\$22,693) loss for August activity, St. Mark's is in a good financial position with \$106,809 of income year to date. It is not unusual to have a loss at some point during the summer months.

### "Sow a Seed, Grow the Kingdom"

The St. Mark's 2023 Stewardship Campaign is based upon Matthew 13:31-32. The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed: the smallest of seeds that grows into the largest of plants. "Sow a Seed, Grow the Kingdom." The campaign began October 2nd with the first of five videos presented by members of the St. Mark's congregation. The first video, Grow the Kingdom, will be followed by Gratitude, Persistence, Humility, and Money.

I believe you will enjoy this year's campaign and I hope it will inspire you to "Sow a Seed, Grow the Kingdom." If you have any questions about St. Mark's finances, come see us during the October 9th Coffee with the Finance Committee.

Bill Zermuehlen, Finance Chair

# October 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."

## Floss Bryant Memorial Service

We will hold a memorial service for Floss Bryant on November 14 at 10 a.m. in the memorial garden. If you would like to help to serve the family through the reception afterwards, let the church office know.

## Family Camp at Mingus Mountain

Pastor Lynn and her family are attending Family Camp at Mingus Mountain! Join us October 14-16 for bonfires, hayrides, and lots of hot cocoa, for cooler temperatures and maybe even some pretty fall colors. More information and registration can be found at <https://mingusmountaincamp.org/events/fall-family-camp/>

## 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](mailto: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



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Email:  
[info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org)  
Website:  
[www.umcstmarks.org](http://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](http://umcstmarks.org/live-worship)  
YouTube:  
UMC St. Mark's Oro Valley

## United Women in Faith News

St. Mark's United Women in Faith will meet at 7 PM on Tuesday evening, October 18 in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom. (Please note that this is different than our usual meeting date and time.) We will have a guest speaker from the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson. This is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government through education and advocacy. Our speaker will discuss and help us understand the propositions that are on the ballot in November.

This presentation is for all voters and you are all invited to attend, women and men. You don't have to be a member of United Women in Faith to come. For the zoom link or if you have questions, contact Secretary Kay Hayworth (see church directory) or leave a note in the UWF mailbox in the church office.

### Spaghetti Dinner

St. Mark's United Women in Faith's Drive Through Spaghetti Dinner will take place from 4-7 p.m. THIS FRIDAY, Oct. 7. Dinner will be spaghetti and meatballs, salad, roll and cookies. A vegetarian option will be available. Drive into the south parking lot, pay a donation of \$9 per meal and pick them up in the loading zone without leaving your car. You can preorder your meal(s) at <https://tinyurl.com/DriveThroughSpaghettiOrder>; via forms available in the church office that you can return in the UWF mailbox; at a courtyard table TODAY; or by calling the church office. Or just come to the south parking lot on Oct. 7.

### Craft and Bake Sale

Mark Your Calendar:

St. Mark's United Women in Faith will be holding a craft and bake sale on November 5 at the Masterpiece Festival. Stop by the Library for the craft sale and find an assortment of items for Christmas presents. The bake sale with all the homemade goodies will be in rooms 17/18. Proceeds from this event goes to support Missions in Tucson and around the world.

### Kitchen Orientation

Planning to help with meals for Soul Station, Primavera or upcoming holiday events? Kitchen training must be completed prior to using the kitchen. Group size is limited to 8. First, watch the Kitchen Training Video found under "Resources" on the church website. Then contact the church office to sign up for the onsite orientation, which will take place at 11:45 a.m. Oct. 9 and Oct. 23. These sessions do not include Rational oven training.

## **OCTOBER 10TH IS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY**

Last October, President Biden issued a proclamation to observe the 2nd Monday in October as a day to honor Native Americans, their resilience and their contributions to American society throughout history, even as they faced assimilation, discrimination and genocide spanning generations. The move shifts focus from Columbus Day, the federal holiday celebrating Christopher Columbus, which shares the same date as Indigenous Peoples' Day. To understand the need for this observance, we need to look back at history.

In 1982, the government of Spain and the Holy See (the Vatican) proposed to the UN General Assembly that the year 1992 be celebrated in the United Nations as an "encounter" between Europe and the peoples of the Americas, with Europeans bearing the gifts of civilization and Christianity to the Indigenous peoples. To the shock of the North Atlantic states that supported Spain's resolution (including the US and Canada), the entire African delegation walked out of the meeting and returned with an impassioned statement condemning a proposal to celebrate colonialism in the UN, which was established for the purpose of ending colonialism.

The "Doctrine of Discovery" had reared its head in the wrong place. The resolution was dead. Only 5 years before the debacle in the UN, the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas conference at the UN's Geneva headquarters had proposed that 1992 be made the UN "year of mourning" for the onset of colonialism, African slavery, and genocide against the Indigenous peoples of the Americas, and that October 12 be designated as the UN International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

According to the centuries-old Doctrine of Discovery, European nations acquired the title to the lands they "discovered," and Indigenous inhabitants lost their natural right to that land after Europeans had arrived and claimed it. Under the legal cover for theft, Euro-American wars of conquest and settler colonialism devastated Indigenous nations and communities, ripping their territories away from them and transforming the land into private property. Arcane as it may seem, the doctrine remains the basis for federal laws still in effect that control Indigenous peoples' lives and destinies, even their histories by distorting them. (*An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz*)



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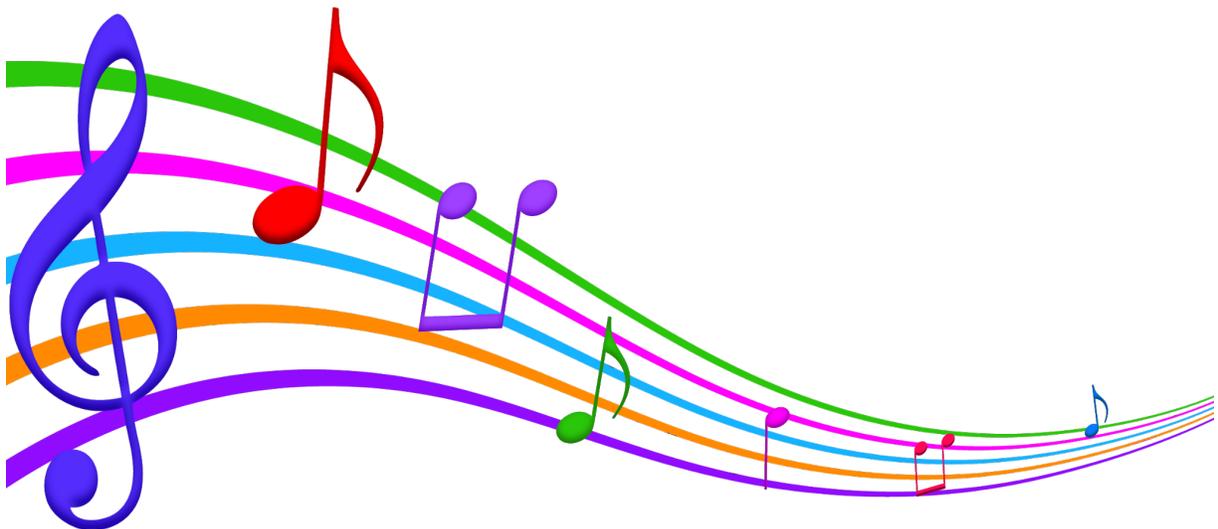
## **2022-2023 Concert Series Continues This Month**

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!

October's concert is Nota Bene at 3 p.m. Oct. 30 in the Sanctuary.

After that is GloryWay Quartet at 3 p.m. Nov. 10, also in the Sanctuary.

A freewill offering will be collected at both performances, with some of the proceeds going into the St. Mark's Concert Fund and some to Missions.



## Address Service Requested

If you would like to receive the Messenger electronically and discontinue your paper copy, submit a request to [messenger@umcstmarks.org](mailto:messenger@umcstmarks.org)

## Reflections

Fall is in the air! Days are getting a little shorter, the nights a little cooler. Pumpkin spice flavors are in everything, and pumpkins are coming! But the huge reason I know that fall is in the air is the increase of visitors in worship. People are moving to Tucson and checking out our congregation. People are returning to Tucson and choosing to return to worship as well, often in a new place. People are realizing there is something missing in their lives and they are exploring church. Every week in the last month, I have met between 2 and 8 people who are trying out St. Mark's for the first time. This is great news—our reach is expanding in our community!

But will those visitors come back again? A national survey concluded that visitors to your church will decide to return to the church in the first 10 minutes they are on your campus. Before worship even begins, new visitors have already decided if they will return. The main reason that people will return is because they feel the congregation is friendly.

Good news, St. Mark's—you are friendly! You share the peace of Christ with a smile. You enjoy coffee and conversation on the patio. You talk and laugh together. But are you noticing the new people? Sometimes, not so much. One recent visitor told me they were in worship for the third week in a row, and it was the first week anyone had talked with them. However, that week, five people had lengthy conversations with them.

Let's work on being a church that offers radical hospitality. Here are some ideas that will help us take our hospitality to the next level:

- Practice the 10-foot rule and the 3-minute rule. This means

that you take responsibility for greeting those seated or standing within 10 feet of you and spend at least 3 minutes before and after any other church activity talking to someone you don't know very well.

- Offer a warm greeting to each guest you encounter. Don't know if they are a guest? Joke about it! "I'm sure we've met a million times, but I've forgotten your name. I'm xxx." Or, "I feel like we've met but I'm newer here. My name is xxx." Or even, "Are you visiting with us or am I just not remembering our previous conversations?"

- Introduce the people you meet to others. Meet someone with a child? Introduce them to another parent with kids. Meet a musician? Introduce them to a choir member. Meet someone from your state? Introduce them to another transplant!

Radical hospitality is a description of the Kingdom of God. Jesus shared radical hospitality as he talked with the woman at the well, lepers and tax collectors, even disciples who had betrayed him. All were welcome to the community that Jesus was building. When we offer that same radical hospitality, we become manifestations of the love and welcome of Christ.

Let's work on our friendly welcome this month, trusting the work that Christ will do through our radical hospitality!

See you soon,  
Pastor Lynn