

Messenger

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

St. Mark's
United Methodist

From Thanksgiving to Advent ...

The holidays are coming, and they are approaching far too quickly! With great excitement we announce the community of St. Mark's will continue one of our greatest traditions around Thanksgiving and is bringing back another.

Although Thanksgiving is not explicitly a religious holiday, St. Mark's uses it as a time to come together and give special thanks to God for all that God has done, is doing, and will be doing in our lives. We do this in part through hosting a Thanksgiving Eve service that gives us a time and space to gather. This service is happening again this year at 6:30 p.m. Tucson time Wednesday, Nov. 23, in the Sanctuary. We invite you to join this celebration either in person or online. As is customary for special holiday services at St. Mark's, the offering that evening will all go directly to serving the community and world around us.

It would be exciting enough if this were all we were doing to celebrate but there is more! *For the first time since 2019, we are celebrating Thanksgiving Day with a special meal drawing us together as a community.* Fun, fellowship, turkey, stuffing, and all of the other good stuff that makes Thanksgiving will take place starting at 1 p.m. Thanksgiving Day in our Fellowship Hall. We invite you to partake in this meal with us! Beyond the gift of your presence, we ask that you bring something, if you are able, to add to the meal. Our traditional Thanksgiving meal will include turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, vegetables, pies and any Thanksgiving favorites you would like to bring. You can check the office for a list of suggested dishes. *St. Mark's will provide the turkey and drinks!*

We also ask you to let us know that you intend to come so we can plan appropriately for the meal. You can RSVP for the meal in a couple of ways: First, you can sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/ThanksgivingPotluck2022>. If that does not work, you can call the church office at 520-297-2062,

complete a form at the courtyard table on Nov. 13 or complete a sign-up form found in the office or narthex, to be turned in at the church office.

And Christmas follows soon after!

No matter how hard we try to make Christmas enough, there's often a sense that something is missing. Join us this Advent season as we connect our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional themes of Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy. Small groups will be offered to dig deeper into our Sunday themes. Come, let us adore him!



- **Saturday, Dec. 10** – "It's Almost Christmas by the Fireside" Children's and Family Ministries event, 5:30-8 p.m.
- **Saturday, Dec. 17** – "A Groovy Christmas Dream" play written by Pastor Evy and starring members of the St. Mark's congregation, beginning at 3 p.m.
- **Monday, Dec. 19** – "Longest Night" service.

Christmas Eve services:

- 11 a.m. Lessons and Carols with potluck soup and bread luncheon afterward
- 4 p.m. Family Modern Service with Blessing of the Children
- 8 p.m. Traditional service with Celebration Singers choir
- 10 p.m. Traditional service with Chancel choir

Christmas Day: ONE service, at 10 a.m. Come as you are, even in your jammies!

New Year's Day: Services at 8:30 and 10 a.m.



This Thanksgiving, we have the chance to give to the Pascua Yaqui Charitable Organization and the Tucson Refugee Ministry. Each organization will receive half of the Thanksgiving special offering. You should be receiving a letter by postal mail or email about this very soon.

The Missions Committee noted that Native Americans were here first, our ancestors came as refugees, and now we welcome our new refugee neighbors to Southern Arizona.

To give use the Thanksgiving envelope, or write "Thanksgiving" on the memo line of your check. You may mail it or bring it to worship any Sunday, or on Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 23, when we'll gather for worship at 6:30 p.m. You can also give electronically by visiting <https://umcstmarks.org/giving/> and click "Donations." Happy Thanksgiving and thanks be to God for His countless blessings!

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.

Sunday Advent Sermons Will Be a Wesleyan Advent Experience

The four Sunday Advent sermons, beginning Dec. 4, will each be based upon the study **Almost Christmas – A Wesleyan Advent Experience** by Magrey deVega, Ingrid McIntyre, April Casperson, and Matt Rawle.

In 1741, John Wesley preached his famous sermon, "The Almost Christian," in which he encouraged people to follow Christ wholeheartedly. We should not be satisfied with being almost Christian but rather strive toward being altogether a Christian. In the *Almost Christmas* study, the authors explore how we can make the same commitment to Christ during Advent, connecting our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace.

The following study groups will participate. These regularly meeting groups are always open to new participants and drop-ins, especially this Advent season.

- **Wednesday Morning Study Group:** 10-11:30 a.m. Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 14, and 21 in Room 17/18 or via Zoom. Marcia Rostad, class leader.
- **Sharing/Family Life Adult Sunday School:** 9:30-11 a.m. Nov. 27 and Dec. 4, 11, and 18 in Room 17/18 or via Zoom. Please register to receive Zoom connection information. Terry Majewski and Rick Farnsworth, class leaders.

Ongoing Adult Sunday School Study

Book of Nehemiah – 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in Room 17/18 and via Zoom: The Seekers study group is continuing its study of the book of Nehemiah. This class is open to anyone at any time. No study book is required, and Bibles are available in classroom. Leaders are Brenda Hunter and Kelly Deyoe.

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.

The Angels of Christmas Advent Study

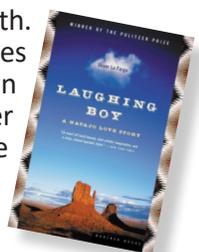
Beginning on Monday, Nov. 28, the study **The Angels of Christmas – Hearing God's Voice in Advent** by Susan Robb will begin at the Mountain View Retirement Village. This study explores the angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. The message of the angels holds meaning for listeners both then and now.

This study group meets 10:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays in the second-floor conference room. All interested people are welcomed as attendance is not limited to the village residents! Class leader is Marge Sogn.



November Open Minds Book Discussion

The St. Mark's book discussion group meets 9 to 10:30 a.m. via Zoom on a Friday in the latter half of each month. 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
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 upbringings 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.



November is Native American Heritage Month

from the Racial Equity Advocates

Which Indigenous lands are you on? (NPR) "Many places in the Americas have been home to different Native Nations over time, and many Indigenous people no longer live on



Church
&
Society

lands to which they have ancestral ties," the [National Museum of the American Indian - NMAI] says. "Even so, Native Nations, communities, families, and individuals today sustain their sense of

belonging to ancestral homelands and protect these connections through Indigenous languages, oral traditions, ceremonies, and other forms of cultural expression." Native Land Digital, an Indigenous-led nonprofit based in Canada, is working to facilitate such conversations and document this history by putting together a searchable map of Native territories, languages and treaties (<https://native-land.ca/>). For example, St. Mark's UMC exists on land that may have once been occupied by the Tohono O'odham, Sobaiपुरi, O'odham Jewed and/or Hohokam peoples. *Link to full article:*

<https://www.npr.org/2022/10/10/1127837659/native-land-map-ancestral-tribal-lands-worldwide>

Can the Indigenous #Landback movement secure self-determination? (Washington Post)

Tribal land reclamation has recently become known as #Landback. Some Indigenous people see #Landback as a means to strengthen economic development and self-governance. Others hope to re-acquire ancestral or sacred lands. Each tribe has its own perspective on how and why land reclamation can be useful. For decades, Indigenous peoples and their advocates have used court cases, government programs and protests to re-acquire land or protect treaty land and culturally important sites. According to the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, tribal land reflects a tiny portion of the American landmass, but Native land holdings in the contiguous United States have grown from around 47 million acres at the end of the 1950s to more than 56 million acres today.

Land acknowledgments are used by Native Peoples and non-Natives to recognize Indigenous Peoples who are the original stewards of the lands on which we now live. The NMAI Land Acknowledgement states: "We gratefully acknowledge the Native Peoples on whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today." NMAI suggests reaching out directly to local Indigenous communities and to Native Nations forcibly removed from the area in the past to ask how they want to be recognized. *Link to full article (note there is a paywall if you don't subscribe):* <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2022/04/06/can-indigenous-landback-movement-secure-self-determination/>

To learn more about Racial Equity, visit the St. Mark's Racial Equity Resources web page, which includes links to more information about Native American people.

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

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual observance on Nov. 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. (Source: glaad.org) It began in 1999 to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. Transgender Day of Remembrance continues to honor the observance with vigils hosted by places of worship, local LGBTQ+ organizations, and community centers. Often, as part of the vigil, the names of individuals lost that year are read aloud to honor their lives.

"Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people -- sometimes in the most brutal ways possible -- it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice."

– Transgender Day of Remembrance founder Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Some of the victims of violence in 2022, as described by loved ones:

- "She was truly unique, funny, and loved by everyone. There was never a dull moment when Ariyanna was around."
- "Fern was one of the most brilliant, colorful, loving, special, super special people that you would ever meet," Nina Shoenthal told Vermont Public Radio. "The kind of person that everyone loved. Everyone wanted to be close with."
- "Friends remember Miia Love Parker as a brilliant light that brought joy into every room she entered," Tori Cooper, the Human Rights Campaign's director of community engagement for its Transgender Justice Initiative, said in a press release. "That light was extinguished far too soon."
- "He was always so selfless," colleague Samantha Strothmann told the Delaware News Journal. "He would always ask how everybody was doing even when he wasn't having a good day himself." Customers described him as "a breath of fresh air" and someone with "a smile that could turn a day around," the paper reports.

(advocate.com)

Learning about transgender individuals' struggles and successes, and always acting and voting from a spirit of acceptance, love and support are ways that we can help end the violence.

For more information about transgender and LGBTQ+ topics:

pflag.org

<https://www.glaad.org/blog/election-2022-arizona-candidates-LGBTQ>

<https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/what-gender-affirming-care-your-questions-answered>

thetrevorproject.org

– Sheli Gray, Church and Society Committee



Spend Some Time With the Rainbow Team! The St. Mark's Rainbow Fellowship meetings are open to all who would like to join us in conversation. No matter who you are, feel free to pop in during our next meeting at 9 a.m. Nov. 20 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.

Advent Devotional Submission Deadline is Nov. 13

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 "home-made" 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 Nov. 27: Peace, Dec. 5: Hope, Dec. 12: Love, and Dec. 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, NOV. 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, email it to (see Susan Putt in church directory). Questions/comments/suggestions can be sent to the same address. Thanks for your participation!

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.

'A Groovy Christmas Dream'

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: 3 p.m. Dec. 17. 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 or Evy (call church office for contact info).

Please join us for a 'Pie-Anni-Birthday' celebration!

WHAT: Art & Sharon Ragland's 50th wedding anniversary AND Sharon's 70th birthday party

WHEN: 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13, open house style

WHERE: St. Mark's UMC Fellowship Hall, 1431 W. Magee Rd. Stop by for many different types of pie, including Rosati's pizza pie, cake and beverages.

No gifts please. Feel free to bring your favorite pie to share. Donations can be made to: Rev. Sharon Ragland Scholarship Fund, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, 102 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, IL 60201 or <https://garrett.edu>.

For those who cannot attend but wish to send a card, please send to Art & Sharon at (see church directory).



Native Social and Craft Fair



Join St. Mark's in celebrating Native American Heritage Month. We will be going to a Native Social and Craft market Sunday, Nov. 27 at Tucson Mall. We will meet at 12:45 p.m. on the first floor between Sears and Dillards. Park on the south side of Sears. Cecil Manual will be hoop dancing. Bring family and friends and your camera. He performs at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. *Church and Society*



Welcome, George Halvorson!

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that all of our open staff positions have been filled. The newest addition to our administrative team is George Halvorson. George was a church member first, joining with his wife, Darcy, in early 2019. He has a background in the U.S. Navy and as a proposal manager, making him a great fit in the position of office manager. He oversees the church facilities and calendar, the rest of the administrative team, and the overall flow of the office, all while offering a sense of levity.



In his spare time, George likes racquetball, collecting model trains, and cooking. Stop in and say hi!

So Many Thanks!

St. Mark's---You are indeed a generous and kind-hearted congregation!!! You exceeded our goals for collecting supplies for CarePackages for the November TIHAN POZ CAFÉ!! We will have extra TP, facial tissues, dish detergent and hand soap for those who can't make it to the "Grab and Go" Thanksgiving lunch in November. There are so many people living with HIV who will be very grateful. These are ongoing needs, so any time an extra package of any of these and other personal care items jump into your grocery or COSTCO cart, just bring them into the church on a Sunday or during the week. We will see that they get to the TIHAN office. You also provided seven Bingo prizes including a pillow, books, flatware and more! As I (Pat Small) make check-in calls from the TIHAN office, I recognize people I know from pre-pandemic times and also new names—the needs continue as does your commitment to sharing God's love. Blessings from the HIV/AIDS Committee.



Lost and Found: Ring

Kay Scarber found a man's signet ring in the pocket of a coat she purchased at the last youth-sponsored rummage sale. The ring has an onyx stone in a gold setting. If you think this is yours, please contact Kay at 520-271-7216 with a description of the design and engraving.

Hospitality Help Wanted

Be part of St. Mark's Hospitality! Join the Welcome Center team to offer coffee, cookies and hospitality on Sunday mornings. Two people (friends, families, couples, anyone) are needed to commit to one or more weeks a month to make coffee and set up the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. If you're not interested in making coffee, teams of two people are also needed to serve in the Welcome Center at 11 a.m. to monitor coffee and cookies and cleanup. This is an easy job, takes 30-40 minutes and is a great way to serve. All those interested contact Jan Webster (see church directory).

St. Mark's Observes International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

During a special service at 3 p.m. Nov. 6, the congregation will join Christian churches around the world in praying for Christians who are being persecuted for following Jesus and practicing their faith. The No. 1 request by persecuted Christians of their Christian brothers and sisters in other countries is to pray for them. Congregants are asked to remember persecuted Christians in their prayers. The St. Mark's Worldwide Christian Support Task Force will have a table on the patio outside the Sanctuary, where additional information about persecuted Christians and ways to support them will be available.

Prayer Shawls to be Blessed

In September, the Prayer Shawl Ministry donated 27 prayer shawls to the VA Hospital. Each one was labeled with a note thanking the veterans for their service. This is part of the twice-a-year donation.

On Sunday, Nov. 20, we will bless the latest contribution of prayer shawls, pocket prayer shawls, and 8" squares for the Knit-a-Square project in South Africa. These items are prayed over as they are made, when they are turned in and by the congregation. We want to make sure the recipient is wrapped in our love and prayers as they are healing from their situation.

Nash Neighbors Gift Card Collection to Begin

Several years ago, the Nash Neighbors committee decided that instead of asking St. Mark's families to "adopt" a few families from the school for Christmas, we could help more families by the distribution of gift cards donated by our generous congregation. For several years, we have collected an average of \$5,225 in Target and Walmart gift cards, which the principal and school counselor then pass on to those families most in need. Through your generosity, we can make a difference in what kind of Christmas their children might have.

Donate as many of the \$25 cards as you wish, or contribute money in any amount. All cash will be used to purchase more cards. Last year we collected \$4,080 (163 cards) and our hope this year is to collect an amount closer to our 2020 total of \$6,300!

Collection Dates are Sundays, Nov. 13 and 20. Nash Neighbors will have a table on the patio after both services. Please stop by the table as you arrive or leave service.

Online giving – If you prefer to donate online, go to <https://umcstmarks.org/giving/> and click on "Donations." Then scroll down and select "Nash School Supplies/Gift Cards."
Mail a check (not the actual cards, please) or **drop off a check or cards** to the church office, marked clearly for Nash Gift Cards.

Thank you, St. Mark's family, for your constant generosity that will bless so many Nash families this Christmas. Imagine the joy in their children's lives. *Sue Pierce, Nash Neighbors*

Missions Committee Update



October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month and our featured missions partner was Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse. Emerge is the leading provider of domestic abuse services in Southern Arizona.

In the last year, more than 15,000 domestic abuse calls were received in Pima County and 7,000 individuals (about 700 were men) received services. 85 people in Pima County died as a result of domestic violence in 2021 alone. Staggering numbers. The Missions Committee authorized a check from our budget in the amount of \$2,500 to be sent to Emerge. We also collected and donated hundreds of baby items including diapers, cream, and wipes for its annual October Stuff The Bus event.

The Committee also sent a check to BorderLinks in the amount of \$1,000 in October. BorderLinks is an educational organization that seeks to deepen the understanding of border migration social justice.

John Yost, Missions Committee Chair

St. Mark's represented once again at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. (See picture below.) We bagged food, we crushed boxes, we palletized/staged food to be bagged, we opened bags, etc. For the morning we helped produce 3,500 bags of food for those in need in Southern Arizona! Won't you join us next time? Meet in the church parking lot at 7:45 a.m. Nov. 18 and Dec. 2.

Contact KJ Naae (see church directory) for more information.



Computers for Agua Prieta

Our great former lay leader, Don Booth, has been helping individuals in our community and our St. Mark's family for



years in solving their computer problems and offering training. It is truly a wonderful ministry that has been a blessing to so many. Don is currently working with the Fuente de Vida church in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico in supplying its computer

lab with updated equipment to replace its current outdated equipment that is no longer useful. The equipment that Don is supplying has been refurbished by him as part of his ministry. The Fuente de Vida church is thrilled to be receiving this gift, as are the members of the community that will be able to use the computer lab. When you see Don around our campus, please take a minute to thank him for his service to others. Thank you Don!

Gratitude for ICS Food Donations

We are in our third year of collecting regular weekly food donations for the northwest food bank at Interfaith Community Services. The generosity of our St. Mark's congregation and the results have been sensational. Some highlights:

- * We have donated almost 19,000 lbs. of food this year and more than 57,000 lbs. since we began.
- * We are far and away the leading ICS faith community partner among 120 participating congregations in food donations.
- * We won the annual July Peanut Butter Party collection contest two years in a row, collecting 3,900 jars in just those two months alone. Pastor Lynn has two trophies in her office.
- * Last February, we donated almost 1,900 jars of pasta sauce and boxes of spaghetti noodles during the Lotsa Pasta contest.
- * And in September, we donated more than 1,800 boxes of macaroni and cheese.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We are not done. As we enter the holiday season, the number of people using the food bank will be great. Your assistance is still needed and appreciated. **Our featured items for November and December in addition to other non-perishable food donations, are boxed stuffing mix and instant potatoes.** You can bring your donations between 10 and 11 a.m. any Tuesday or Saturday to the church's north parking lot or if it is more convenient, you can drop them off at the church office during its business hours. Thanks again!

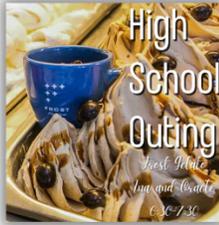
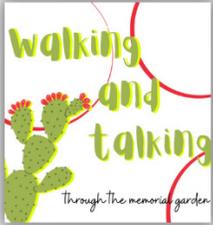
Your Tuesday and Saturday Food Collection Team: Carl Harrison, Robert Kittrell, Carla Yost, Patricia Kittrell, John Yost

Youth Ministry

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

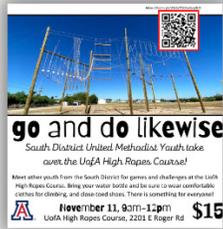


Youth Group Calendar grades 6-12



Nov. 6

Nov. 11
(Friday)



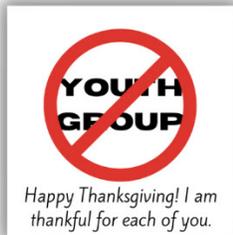
Nov. 13



Nov. 20



Nov. 27

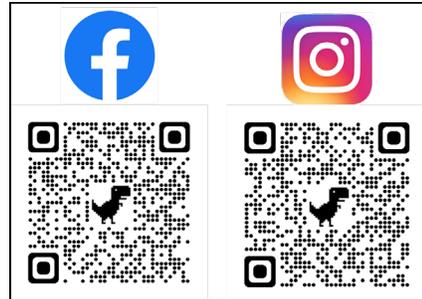


Dec. 4



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!

Pumpkins Pumpkins Pumpkins



Our pumpkin patch is such a fun fundraiser, and really a great outreach to the community! Every day that I was out there, I had at least one person stop by and tell me how they look forward to our little desert pumpkin patch every year. The stories people growing up coming to get pumpkins here and now bringing

their kids are so great! We couldn't do it without all of your help! Whether you helped unload or sell, or told your friends to come by- THANK YOU! Don't miss youth group on Nov. 6, when we will vote where to tithe 10% of the proceeds.

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



NO MEETING NOV. 27
THANKSGIVING WEEKEND



NOV 6
MARIO PARTY NIGHT



NOV 13
ESCAPE ROOM ACTIVITY



NOV 20
GRATITUDE & SERVICE ACTIVITY

Youth Ministry

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



MASTERPIECE FESTIVAL

This year on Nov. 5, the Fine Arts & Crafts Guild is letting us sell drinks throughout the Masterpiece Festival, for a chance to raise money! 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! Sign up today so you get the spot you want! Slots from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

Our request is in, and now we wait! We should hear which dates we will be attending SSP very soon. Still interested in attending? Let Rachel know- there are a few spots available! Students in eighth thru 12th grades, keep your eyes out for more information about SSP 2023 soon.

SOUTH DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

Go And Do Likewise

It's almost time for one of our most popular District Events! Nov. 11 is our day at the UA/4H High Ropes! Meet me at the Wesley House at 8:15 a.m. for an adventure. We will be back by 12:45. Wear close toed shoes and bring lots of water! Cost is \$15, and scholarships are available. This year's theme for the South District is "Go and do likewise," based on the Good Samaritan story



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!

YOUTH 2023

July 23-28, 2023

6th-12th grade

Orlando and Daytona Beach, Florida

Every four years, the United Methodist Church puts on an amazing youth event for youth from around the country. With workshops, live worship, and amazing musical talent,

WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP

Walking and Talking through the memorial garden Nov. 6
Did you know we have a little walking path here at St. Mark's!? It's a great space to have a quiet walk, to contemplate, and to see critters! Come on November 6 and experience a fun way to walk through the garden, and have a conversation with your friends at youth group.

High School Outing November 6, 6:30-7:30 ,Frost Gelato
Students in 9th-12th grades are invited to join Rachel at Frost on November 6th right after youth group. You are welcome to meet us there at 6:30-7:30, or catch a ride in the church van (I can take 13!). If you need a ride, please let Rachel know ahead of time, so we make sure to have enough seat belts! This is a time for high school students to be in fellowship together, with some guided conversation. You bring the conversation, I'll provide the gelato.

Veterans Day November 13
We will not meet on November 13. This year, not only will we have just met for the district event, but we get a three-day weekend, so I bet you will need to finish your homework!

Caption That! Photo Scavenger Hunt November 20
We have all done the scavenger hunts where you follow the clues, right? What if for this one, it's a photography hunt! You and your team will receive an envelope of captions, and your mission is to try to find the best picture to fit the caption!

Happy Thanksgiving November 27
I am so thankful for all of the students, parents, and supporters of the youth ministry here at St. Mark's. Enjoy Thanksgiving weekend with your amazing families!

High School Outing December 4, 6:30-7:30
Fruit Shack Smoothies, Yogurt, Juice Bar
10785 N. Oracle Rd, Ste 143
Students in 9th-12th grades are invited to join Rachel at Fruit Shack right after youth group on December 4. This is a time for high school students to be in fellowship and conversation together. You bring the conversation, I'll provide the treats.

November Birthdays

- Nov. 4—**Addy Ritchey**
- Nov. 14—**Rose Sanchez**
- Nov. 15—**Brandon Britt**
- Nov. 15—**Keves Velasco**
- Nov. 20—**Ryan Hickerson**



RSVP NOW for 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 12.**

And, if one of your family members prefers M GO BLUE, let's invite them, too. (Actually, everyone is welcome!)

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!'

To RSVP, email Donna Reed (see church directory) so she can get a head count!

United Women in Faith Meeting

The St. Mark's United Women in Faith will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8, in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Light refreshments will be available at 9:30 a.m.

Our program will be the annual dedication of the World Thank Offering* and our United Women in Faith Pledge Service for 2023. All women of the church are invited.

If you have questions about the meeting, or if you'd like a ride, contact President Clara Campbell (see church directory). Please contact Secretary Kay Hayworth (see church directory) for Zoom information.

*The World Thank Offering is an opportunity to show our gratitude for God's blessings during the year. We are encouraged to set aside coins or bills each time we are especially grateful for God's gifts in our life, and bring that offering to support the total program of mission through the United Women in Faith's national office.



United
Women
in Faith

St. Mark's 'Renovation Team' Requests Prayers and Presence

We are excited to let you know that the work with Ministry Architects authorized by Covenant Council has begun. Your Renovation Team has held its first meeting. We have reviewed and discussed an overview of the 18-month process that will be required. We have identified our responsibilities and some of the resources available for our use in meeting the goals for St. Mark's. We need your help.

We need your prayers. Your prayers that we have the knowledge and wisdom to discern programs and procedures to ensure that your church, St. Mark's, will remain a vibrant church doing God's work. We need your presence. Your presence through volunteering to help in implementing procedures that will enable St. Mark's to reach its goals. We also want to hear from you. If you have questions, issues, or ideas please email them to us at the following address: renovatiionteam@umcstmarks.org.

Your Renovation Team:

Sara Dimond
Linda Martino
Bill Zermuehlen

Diane Hiratsuka
Maryann Nuckolls

Advent Event Needs Donations

"It's Almost Christmas by the Fireside" and the Children's and Family Ministries committee need your help to get ready. This year's Advent event, "It's Almost Christmas by the Fireside," will be 5:30--8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. The committee needs multiple portable fire pits and would like to borrow yours. We will be setting up fire pits on the west patio in order for families to make s'mores. In addition to s'mores families will enjoy hot cocoa and hot apple cider. Don't have a fire pit we can borrow? No problem. We also need donations of graham crackers, chocolate bars (full size and minis), marshmallows, and hot cocoa or apple cider packets. In addition to fire pits and sweet treats, the committee is recruiting small groups of Christmas carolers and musicians to entertain the event attendees and volunteers to supervise the fire pits. Fire pits and donations can be dropped off Dec. 4-9, and fire pits can be picked back up on Sunday, Dec. 11. Please contact Julie Eblen at julie@umcstmarks.org for more information and to make donations.

Kathy Narney to Offer Spiritual Direction Here

What is Spiritual Direction?

It is an ancient practice rooted in the idea of an interpersonal relationship between a trained spiritual director and an individual, or directee.

The word "direction" can be misleading, for the relationship focuses on listening to the Holy Spirit, rather than one person "directing" another.

Reasons for seeking out a spiritual director can vary from desiring a better understanding of God, to questions about one's relationship with God, and more. An ancient Irish phrase pertaining to this practice is "Anam Cara," which beautifully translates as "soul friend."

A spiritual director typically requires many hours of theological training, as well as a two-year course in the "art" of spiritual direction. This prepares one to "come alongside" another, always at that individual's request.

A session lasts an hour, once a month, and can be one session or many.

Kathy holds an M.Div. from Fuller Seminary and a CASD (Certificate in the Art of Spiritual Direction) from Kino Institute, and has been practicing for many years. She can be contacted at (see church directory).



**Saturday, Nov. 5
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Masterpiece Festival

13th Annual Arts & Craft Show
Sponsored by St. Mark's Fine Arts & Crafts Guild

St. Mark's
United Methodist



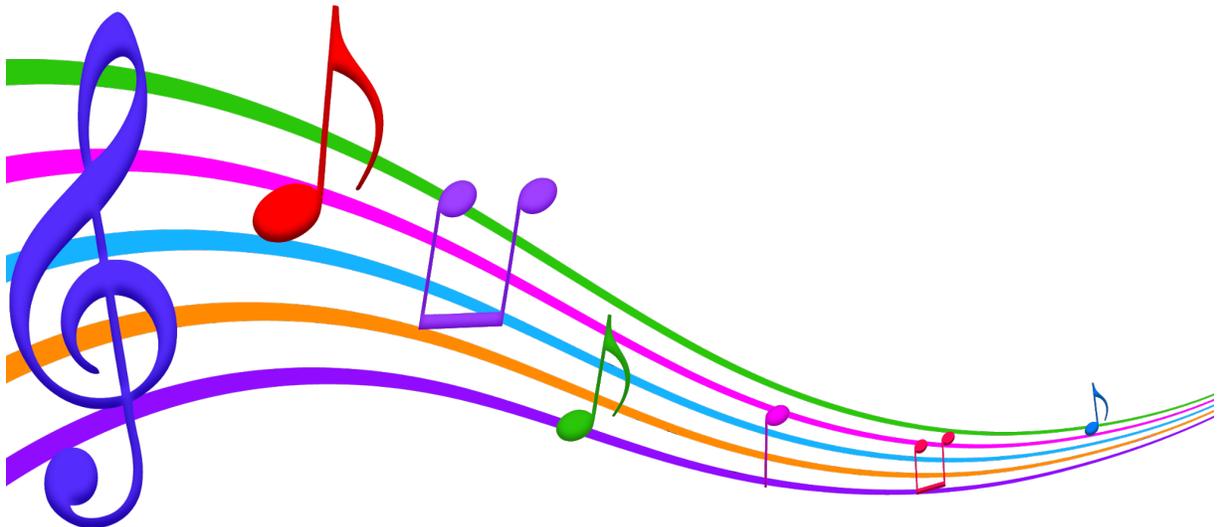
www.umcstmarks.org
(Southwest corner of LaCanada and Magee)

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Concerts

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!

November's concert is GloryWay Quartet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10 in the Sanctuary. GloryWay puts on a unique and versatile performance that blends classic four-part harmony with exciting and inspiring new sounds and styles. They look forward to each and every opportunity to share their ministry. Each performance is sure to delight and encourage all who listen.

After that is our annual Christmas Cantata at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, also in the Sanctuary.



PRAYER CORNER

We are a praying community at St. Mark's. Besides Sunday worship, you may submit prayer requests by email to prayerchain@umcstmarks.org. You may also submit via our online form at <https://umcstmarks.org/prayer-request>

*Jared Bowman and family
Deb Cushman
Judy Drescher*

*April DuBoce
Barb Osar
Mary Sanders*

*Dave & Karen Thomas
Carol Underwood
Jackie Vickers*

We extend our heartfelt prayers and sympathy to:

- The family of Shirley Kilbourn, who died the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 27 after a long battle with dementia. Please pray for her daughter, Julie, and the rest of their family as they navigate this time.
- The family and friends of Charles "Chuck" Matson, who died Monday October 17, of longer term complications from cardiovascular surgery. A memorial service for Chuck was held Sunday, Oct. 29



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 ...

Dear Rev. Bartlow and Friends:

Thank you for your gift of \$2,500.00 to Emerge on 10/24/2022.

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

Emerge is committed to supporting those experiencing domestic abuse throughout this challenging time and beyond. All of Emerge's services remain operational, delivered primarily through virtual channels to protect the health and safety of everyone.

We know that the pandemic of domestic abuse will not end when the COVID-19 pandemic subsides. It will end when we as a community join together to end it.

Thank you for investing in this work. Together, we can create a community free from abuse.

Sincerely,
Ed Sakwa
CEO

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

When you hear the words "Stewardship Campaign," what comes to mind? If you're like most people, you think of that time in the fall when churches ask you how much money you are going to give next year. This is an important part of the work we do as a church. We hire staff, we allocate a budget, we commit to missions giving based on what we believe we will receive in tithes and offerings in the coming year. We have recently completed this time in our own church, holding Commitment Sunday on October 30. (It's not too late to turn in your commitment cards, by the way. You can do it easily online or you will find a card on Sunday in the narthex.)

The problem is that stewardship is more than just our money, and it should be a topic all year long. Stewardship is understanding that all we have is from God, and that our task is to live in a way that honors God. Money is certainly part of that, but it's only a small part. In his book *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis says these words: "Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to God's service, you could not give God anything that was not in a sense God's own already."

Stewardship, then, is a spiritual practice that allows us to live out the belief that all we have and all that we are belongs to God. Stewardship is our gifts of time, relationship, worship,

thanksgiving, prayer, service, and material possessions. It is a way of living that includes giving.

How are you giving to the church? Some of you can afford to financially give more than you already are, knowing that God is working good through the ministries of St. Mark's.

Some of you can't increase your giving, but you can increase your time commitment. Cook a meal for Soul Station. Volunteer to provide hospitality at Masterpiece Festival. Be a substitute teacher for Sunday School. Host a gathering of people you haven't seen at church lately.

Most of you can increase your prayer life. Join us for the prayer service. Commit to praying for those whose names are offered on Sunday morning. Join one of the prayer groups who meet. Spend five extra minutes in prayer.

Some of you can increase your gift of worship. Show up more often! Sing in the choir or play bells. Be a liturgist. Come one more Sunday a month than you usually do.

Thank you for your continued financial stewardship to St. Mark's. How will stewardship move beyond your money to encompass all of your life?

*See you soon,
Pastor Lynn*