

Messenger

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



Parents, Got Valentine Plans?

Valentine's Day is fast approaching, and St. Mark's has you covered. St. Mark's is hosting a Kids' Night Out from 5-8 p.m.



Friday, Feb. 10. Children ages 3 (and potty trained) to 12 years will enjoy pizza, games, movies (G-rated) and Valentine's Day crafts. Children under 3 years or not yet potty trained will be accommodated in the child care/nursery classroom. Feel free to bring a sack dinner for anyone not able to eat pizza. Space will be limited, so sign up using the QR code at the left or

this link: <https://tinyurl.com/KidsNightOutValentines2023>. To be added to the email list, contact Julie at julie@umcstmarks.org or Cathy at [\(call church office for contact info\)](#). You may also leave a message with the church office at 520-297-2062.

Wesley Heritage Tour Has Room

Our Methodist roots begin with Charles and John Wesley, Anglican priests who lived most of their lives in England. Join Pastor Lynn (and her family) and our former pastor Sharon Ragland (and her husband) on a tour of some of Methodism's historic sites in London and surrounding areas. We will visit York, Epworth, Bristol, Stratford, Oxford, and more. We will check out where Shakespeare lived and died and visit where John Newton lived, plus visit all the Wesley places, such as their childhood home, Aldersgate Street, and more. The tour departs May 29 and returns June 7. If you are interested, tour brochures are available at the church or by clicking here: <https://tinyurl.com/WesleyTour23>

Youth 2023 Excitement is Brewing!

Youth 2023 is the upcoming youth event put on by Discipleship Ministries. This is a quadrennial event (held every four years) that is an amazing experience for youth all around the country. Thousands of primarily United Methodist (although this year it is an ecumenical event) youth come together to share in worship, study, mission, community and FUN from all over the United States.

This year, Rachel is serving on the national Design Team, and St. Mark's is sending 22 youth and 3 adult participants. It is so exciting that such a large group of students have signed up for the event! The total cost for each person is \$1,400 (including airfare, lodging, etc.). Most of this amount will be fundraised by the students. Watch out for upcoming restaurant percentage

nights and other fun ways to help support St. Mark's Youth!



Our first fundraising endeavor will take place after each service on Feb. 26 and March 5. Come find the youth for their exciting Envelope fundraiser! We will have a board with numbered envelopes. If you would like to participate in helping send these amazing students to Daytona Beach to worship and grow in faith, you may pick any envelope you wish. The number on the envelope will correspond with the amount of your donation to the youth. There will be envelopes as low as \$1! Come early to get your top pick, the envelope you want to contribute to! See you on Feb. 26!

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 22

Ash Wednesday begins the holy season of Lent, a season of penitence and preparation for Easter. On Ash

Wednesday, we confront the realities of human finitude and failure, and we confess our dependence on God's grace for salvation from sin and death.



But notice that Ash Wednesday is not just about an inward life. It's also about our outward faith. We come and confess and are reminded of both our sinfulness and our mortality. And yet we are given a visible mark in the imposition of ashes, a way of letting the world know that we are people of faith.

We invite you to begin this Lenten season by receiving ashes. Come and confess your own sins and receive the mark of ash as an outward pledge to live your life to bring honor to God and glory to Jesus Christ.

This season, we will offer ashes in two ways. First, we will offer ashes for you to stop by and receive as you begin your day. Come to the Sanctuary and stay as long as you would like. Second, we will offer a service at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and online.

Drop-In Ashes from 6 - 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Renovation Team Update

The St. Mark's Renovation Team has been busy. We have been working to get projects done that will help in accomplishing future renovations.

We have been working with church staff to develop an attendance-tracking plan for major ministries. So far, spreadsheets for attendance during 2022 and 2023 worship services have been completed. Staff is set to begin work on Sunday School and Wednesday night Soul Station. Additional major ministries will be added in the future.

Have you noticed that new special interest group meetings are happening? The Renovation Team has sought out leaders willing host these gatherings. These bring people with similar interests together. The Ohio Club and a Modern Worship group have been meeting. A "meet and greet" for Veterans and First Responders recently took place. If you are interested in leading or hosting a special interest group let us know.

We are working on reconnecting with friends we haven't seen in a while. A "Shepherd Project" has begun. The Renovation Team is asking individuals to reach out to one or two people they know, who they have not seen recently. Work is also being done on a visitor connection and assimilation plan from first time visitor to membership.

Finally, a Renovation Prayer Team has formed. These individuals will offer prayers for St. Mark's pastors, staff, volunteers, and consultations as they work to develop programs and procedures to enable the church to best continue to do God's work.

Please contact us at renovationteam@umcstmarks.org with questions, comments, or recommendations.

Your Renovation Team:

Sarah Dimond
Linda Martino
Bill Zermuehlen

Diane Hiratsuka
Maryann Nuckolls

Save the Date for Spaghetti!

The next St. Mark's United Women in Faith drive-through spaghetti dinner is Friday, April 14. A meal of spaghetti and meatballs, salad, roll and dessert can be picked up from 4-7 p.m.

A vegetarian option is also available. Just drive through the south parking lot and pick up your meal(s) without ever leaving your car. Pre-order forms will be available in March.



Proceeds and donations support missions in Tucson and around the world. Watch the Sunday bulletin and weekly e-blast for additional information.

How 'Church & Society' Differs from 'Missions' at St. Mark's

Why does St. Mark's have both a Missions Committee and a Church & Society Committee? While Missions and Church & Society are both trying to change the world by caring for all people, our roles are different. Missions is focused on acts of mercy, providing immediate relief to a



*Church
&
Society*

hurting world. This includes feeding the hungry, providing clothing and shelter for the poor, and assisting in natural disasters.

Church & Society is focused on social justice, making permanent changes to our communities and world to make them more safe, equitable, sustainable, and healthy. Much of this involves education and changing policies and laws. Social justice work is preventive medicine for needing relief work. The church needs to be involved in both social justice and missions relief, and we have committees focused on each!



'Hidden Figures' Movie Night

Join us at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, in the Fellowship Hall. We are screening the movie, "Hidden Figures," in honor of Black History Month. It is a powerful, true story about three Black female mathematicians doing critical work at NASA in 1961. The movie is rated PG. - *Church & Society*

February is Black History Month

We invite you to visit the St. Mark's Racial Equity website and learn more about Black history and systemic racism through the available readings, videos, podcasts and book recommendations (<https://umcstmarks.org/racial-equity/racial-equity-resources/>). Alternatively, the UMC's General Commission on Race and Religion also offers "29 Ways You Can Participate in Black History Month" (<https://www.r2hub.org/library/29-ways-you-can-participate-in-black-history-month>).

Education is key to deconstruct racial narratives

from the Racial Equity Advocates

"The role of education at all social levels and in particular of young generations, remains one of the best ways to stop the proliferation of racist and discriminatory discourses and to foster intercultural exchanges."

– UNESCO, March 2018 (<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/education-key-deconstruct-racial-narratives>)

Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

Lenten Studies Begin This Month

ALL REGISTRATION IS ONLINE AT <https://umcstmarks.org> then go to "Classes" and then select "Adult Spiritual Growth Opportunities." Or sign up at the Adult Spiritual Growth board on the patio Sunday mornings. Please pre-register and acquire books from your favorite resource. (Bookshop.org, <https://bookshop.org>, supports local bookstores.)

Wednesday Morning Study Group

"Simon Peter – Flawed but Faithful Disciple" by Adam Hamilton. 10-11:30 a.m. in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Six weeks beginning Feb. 22. Led by Marcia Rostad. Simon Peter left everything to follow Jesus and possessed a passion that would change the world. But Peter was poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. He denied Christ three times in the moments that led to the cross. This class will add a twist to this study of Peter's life by examining it through the lens of Lent. Wednesday Morning Study is always open to everyone at any time! Feel free to join this study for its entirety or one or more sessions. A study book is not required but is helpful. If attending by Zoom, please pre-register to receive connection information.

"Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?" by Philip Yancey. 6:30 p.m. Thursdays for six weeks beginning Feb. 23 via Zoom. Led by Brenda Hunter. Zoom link will be sent a few days before class starts. Philip Yancey offers a different approach to the subject of prayer. He writes: "If prayer stands at the place where God and human beings meet, then I must learn about prayer. I have now written 20 books, and in some way or another most of them circle around the same two themes: why doesn't God act the way we want God to, and why don't I act the way God wants me to. Prayer is the precise point where these two

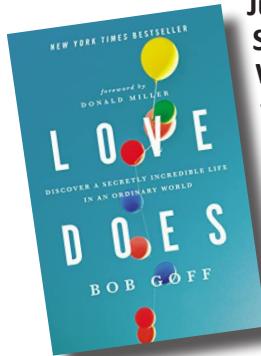
themes converge." The book is available from

Cokesbury for about \$15 (less for an e-book), but it is also worth checking Bookman's for a used copy or purchasing from <https://bookshop.org>, which supports local bookstores.

Adult Sunday School

"Finding Jesus in the Psalms" by Barb Roose. 9:30-11 a.m. for six weeks beginning Feb. 26 in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Led by Rick Farnsworth and Carl Harrison. Readers are guided through a meaningful encounter with the Psalms through the season of Lent. Combining an interpretation of the psalms with prayerful engagement, the study moves through the familiar words of Psalm 23 toward the painful cries of Psalm 22 uttered by Jesus on the cross. Books are not required for this class but are available by contacting either class leader (see church directory) or ordering from your favorite resource. If attending by Zoom, please pre-register to receive connection information. This class is always open to everyone at any time! Feel free to join this study for its entirety or one or more sessions.

Seekers are studying the Gospel of John.



Just starting: "Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World" by Bob Goff. 6:30-7:30 p.m. for five Thursdays beginning Feb. 2 in Room 20. Led by KJ Naae. This uplifting and enthusiastic author incorporates true-life stories to demonstrate how God invites us to love, how we can overcome our timidity to encompass an altogether love.

Ada Harrison Scholarship Fund

One unbending principle of ASG is that no one should feel unable to participate in a class because of the inability to purchase a study book. And neither did Ada Harrison, who was a member of St. Mark's for many years. Having once lived in a primarily Jewish neighborhood in Cleveland, she was impressed by their love of study of their faith. She was an active learner throughout her life even after retiring as a nurse. Ada participated in all ASG offerings she possibly could and wanted others to have the same opportunities. To that end, Ada established a scholarship fund to help decrease the financial barriers to learning. Ada was a gift to many at St. Mark's. She was so special that the Rev. Paul Caseman danced with her in celebration of her 100th birthday during Sunday morning worship!

The Ada Harrison Scholarship Fund is available to help those in need of financial assistance in purchasing study books or other study-related expenses. Please contact Pastor Kim Ogle, kim@umcstmarks.org, with your request; the process is simple and confidential. Church members are encouraged to donate to this fund in support of its mission. Thank you.

Prayer Bead Class

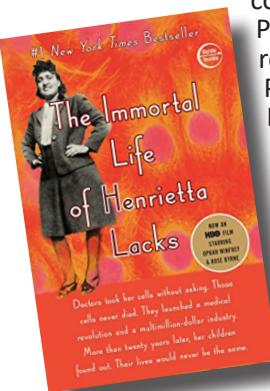
Led by Brenda Hunter from 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 18 in Room 17/18. Participants will assemble a set of prayer beads and then have an opportunity to learn different ways to incorporate them into their prayer practices. \$5 will be collected at the beginning of the class to pay for beading supplies.

"People of the Passion" by Cathy Randall. Six-week Lenten study beginning 10:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 27, at Mountain View Retirement Village. Leader: Marge Sogn. This study looks at some of the main characters of Jesus' final days and examines how they demonstrated themes of faithfulness, gratitude, conflict, power, and betrayal. In their stories we see the collective narrative of fallen humanity and recognize that our redemption hinges upon Easter morning. No book required. Attendance is open to all and is not limited to the village residents. Register at the lobby desk upon entering facility.

Lenten Study at Barnes & Noble (Title TBA), six weeks beginning at 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27. Led by Marlyce Wright. Watch for more information on the patio bulletin board on Sundays, in the Weekly E-blast, or in the Sunday bulletin.

Open Minds Book Group

"The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," by Rebecca Skloot (2011). Join our discussion from 9-10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 24, via Zoom. Register on the St. Mark's website by selecting "Classes" and then "Adult Spiritual Growth Opportunities" or contact one of the group leaders, Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban (see church directory). The book is available from the Pima County Public Library, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, local bookshops, and <https://bookshop.org>, which supports local bookstores.



Henrietta Lacks, a poor black tobacco farmer, is best known by her cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—that have been used by medical scientists for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping and more. Her

cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet her family, who can't afford health insurance, was in the dark about the preservation of Henrietta's cells for over 20 years. Skloot tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.

Quilting, Knitting Ministries Receive Corporate Support

After learning about the wonderful work our St. Mark's groups do in making hundreds of quilts, blankets, and shawls for those needing loving support in Southern Arizona, the corporate headquarters of JOANN Fabrics and Crafts has donated more than \$1,300 in gift cards to support these ministries at St. Mark's. The quilters have purchased

a new sewing machine to replace the aging one they had been using. The remaining funds are being used to purchase needed materials and supplies in support of these ministries. Thank you, JOANN!

Related, our quilters recently donated 25 quilts to Tucson Refugee Ministry in support of new refugee mothers and their newborn babies. These babies are United States citizens full of hope for a better life and opportunities. Praise God!

New AA Group Forming Here

A new Alcoholics Anonymous group is forming here at St. Mark's beginning Feb. 13. It will meet at 6 p.m. Mondays in the church library. This is a closed meeting, alcoholics only.

Upcoming Messenger Deadlines

The deadlines for the next two issues of the *Messenger* newsletter are Feb. 21 and March 21. Submit information for the *Messenger* to messenger@umcstmarks.org.

Join the Rainbow Team!

St. Mark's Rainbow Fellowship meetings are open to ANYONE (LGBTQIA, allies, family, friends, and everyone else) who would like to join us. No matter who you are, feel free to pop in during our next meeting at 9 a.m. Feb. 19 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.



Seeking Spiritual Direction? Try Lay Servant Ministries

Stand at the crossroads and look ... ask where the good way is and walk in it and you'll find rest for your souls. — Jeremiah 6:16



Maybe Lay Servant Ministries is just what you have been looking for to help fill that spiritual longing. If you are a leader at St. Mark's and/or have felt like you could be doing more for Christ or doing it better, then this ministry is for you.

Lay Servant Ministries helps you become aware of your particular gift or gifts and offers classes to help

you put those gifts into action. Some examples of lay servant service include visitation, teaching, volunteering in the community, worship leadership, support for the grieving, prison ministry, and leadership of committees and project groups.

Lay Servant Ministries is an excellent method for expanding your servant ministry and has aided many to be better servants of Jesus Christ, to become stronger church leaders, and to more capably assist their pastors. Ask any of the growing community of lay servants here at St. Mark's. This ministry will encourage and empower you; train you so you can offer your gifts; and train you to seek and to serve in active ministries here at St. Mark's UMC and beyond.

The upcoming Lay Servant Ministries Intro Course offers a wide range of background in the United Methodist Church while focusing on the many ways lay speakers are called to be in ministry. If you're not sure what your spiritual direction is or would like to better equip yourself to assist with the mission of the church and personal ministry, enrolling in the Intro Lay Servant Class is a great way to pursue that.

An intro class is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 25 and March 4 at St. John's UMC, 60 W. Veterans Blvd. Cost is \$15. An application is available in the church office and online at <https://tinyurl.com/LSM-intro2-23>.

For more information on the Intro Course, any of the advanced courses or Lay Servant Ministries in general, contact Kelly Deyoe at ([see church directory](#)).

*Kelly Deyoe
South District Director of Lay Servant Ministries*

Great Things are Coming to Children's Ed/Family Ministries

The Children's Education and Family Ministries Committee is excited to announce that GREAT THINGS are coming soon! The committee is busy planning a Kids' Night Out Event on Feb. 10 (see signup info on the cover of this Messenger), an "Eggcellent" Easter event April 1 and this year's Vacation Bible School (dates TBA). These events are important to the St. Mark's community as well as the St. Mark's Early Childhood Center and the surrounding community. But events like these are only as AMAZING as the people who plan and execute the events. If you are interested in helping with any of these upcoming events, have ideas to share or would like to be part of the committee that plans these events, please contact one of the people listed below. You DO NOT need experience or to be a committee member to help with any of these events. All that is needed is a KIND AND LOVING HEART AND AN INTEREST IN HELPING CHILDREN GROW IN THEIR FAITH.

The committee meets alternately at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month or at 11:15 a.m. the second Sunday. Its next meeting is 11:15 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, in Room 8/9.

For more information please contact:

Cathy Harris-Herchenroeder, Committee Chair
(call church office for contact info)

Julie Eblen, Children's & Family Ministries Coordinator
julie@umcstmarks.org

Pastor Kim Ogle
kim@umcstmarks.org



Come to Special Interest Meetup Events

The Renovation Team invites you to any of these "meet-and-greet" sessions where you can connect with other St. Mark's folks. Make new contacts and friends!

- Feb. 5, 9-10 a.m., church library: **Love attending live theater, musical events or other types of performances?** Tucson offers just about everything! Interested in finding others in the church family who share your interest to go with, to meet up with for dessert afterwards? Or to just connect and find out what is happening across the city? Join us to meet others in our church community who enjoy these same activities. For more information contact Diane Hiratsuka (see church directory).
- **Do you enjoy being outside this time of year and like to walk?** A St. Mark's walking group is forming. At 10:15 a.m. Friday, Feb. 3., a small group of walkers are meeting at the church and will head to Christina-Taylor Green Park to begin our walk. We will walk The Loop, only as far as people are comfortable going and then

Are You a Younger Adult? Check Out 'Common Grounds'

Common Grounds is a group of people in our 20s, 30s, and 40s on many walks of life.



Some of us are married, some of us are single. Some of us are parents, some are students, and some are professionals. We have different laid-back meetings where we grow as people, Christians, and friends. Wherever you are on your journey, this is a place for you to get to know God and help us make a difference. We typically meet from 6-8 p.m.

the third Saturday of every month in the church library. Coffee and child care are provided! Questions? Contact rachel@umcstmarks.org.

United Women in Faith News

St. Mark's United Women in Faith will meet at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. The program

begins at 10 a.m. and is about important pre- and post-bereavement planning, presented by Mary Wald. Mary is a member of St. Mark's and United

Women in Faith. She has some important and helpful things you can plan and do to help yourself and your friends or family members plan for end of life. Please bring any questions you may have. There will be a time for you to share your thoughts – what you learned, what has worked for you, or something that's difficult for you, etc. If you have questions or need a ride, contact President Clara Campbell (see church directory).

turn around. Don't forget to bring water, a hat, sunglasses, and comfortable walking shoes, and to dress in layers, appropriate for the weather. We will meet again at 10:15 a.m. Thursday Feb. 16, at the church and drive to an area near Magee and Oracle to walk. Contact Diane Hiratsuka (see church directory) for more information.

- **If you regularly attended the Gathering contemporary worship service** here at St. Mark's, join us for a potluck lunch after the 10 a.m. service, about 11:15, Sunday, Feb. 19, in the Fellowship Hall. We are having get-togethers once a month to keep in touch. Bring a dish to share if you can. Of course, all are welcome, even if you didn't attend the Gathering. Call Johanna Eubank, 520-661-4297, if you have any questions.
- 17 St. Mark's veterans gathered in the church library Jan. 22 to get better acquainted. If you missed this opportunity, **please join other St. Mark's Veterans at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 24, for breakfast and/or coffee** at Coco's Bakery and Restaurant, 7250 N. Oracle Road. For more information contact Diane Hiratsuka (see church directory).

Missions Ministry

Greetings From New Chair

We are off to a good start and are filling liaison positions left vacant. We will be working on clarifying our donations in accord with the Renovation Team revisiting our Mission Statement. Twenty-five blankets were donated to Tucson Refugee Ministry. The Christmas collection was split between Nash and The Inn. The one suggestion we have is for \$18,000 of the Easter Collection go toward the 2023 Youth Quadrennial Meeting in Florida and the rest to Rise Against Hunger. Rachel's youth group will cover the other \$20,000 of expenses.

Mary Beth Barone, Missions chair

Market on the Move is Feb. 4



Market on the Move is back again Feb. 4 and continuing the first Saturday of every month through May. We offer 60 lbs. of fresh produce delivered to your car for only \$10, with 10% coming back to St. Mark's. Hours are 8-10 a.m. Volunteers need to be ready at 7:30 a.m. New recruits are always welcome. There will be a sign-up sheet on the courtyard bulletin board or you can text Lenna Burnham: (see church directory).

Time to Donate 'Lotsa Pasta'

Interfaith Community Services is calling on all its faith community partners to donate as many packages of pasta noodles and cans of sauce as possible throughout February. A box of pasta noodles and a can of pasta sauce can be purchased on sale for around \$4 and that will feed a family of four. Last year, our St. Mark's family donated more than 1,900 boxes and cans. That was about 3,900 meals! Can we do it again this year? Please help if you can. There are three ways to donate:

- You can bring your donations to church with you any Sunday in February and put them in the marked bins in the courtyard.
- You can bring them to the church's north parking lot between 10-11 a.m. any Tuesday or Saturday.
- You can drop them off at the church office during its normal business hours.



Volunteers Assemble Emergency Food Bags

What a fun time serving at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona on Jan. 13! We bagged 2,800 bags at 6 lbs. each, for a total of 16,800 lbs!!!!



28 pallets! This will help those in need in Southern Arizona.

Thanks for your efforts, great attitudes and working to be the hands and feet of God! I'm GRATEFUL! Fun lunch at The Landing afterwards. Next trip is Feb. 10. All are welcome!

*With gratitude,
KJ Naae*

Support Annual ICS Empty Bowls Fundraiser

Empty Bowls is the largest fundraising campaign of the year for Interfaith Community Services. Attendees sample signature soups, breads and desserts donated by local restaurants and food partners, participate in auctions and raffles, and select a beautiful handmade pottery bowl—made and donated by a local artist—to keep. Last year it raised more than \$145,000, with all the proceeds going to support ICS food banks. This year's event is March 4 and you can help before that by donating various raffle and silent auction items such as:

- Paintings and Art Work
- Pottery and Sculptures
- Experiences (Passes and Tickets)
- Gift Cards for Restaurants and Services

Do you have an item that you would like to donate? Download this form <https://tinyurl.com/ICSEmptyBowls23> and return it to ICS with your donation.

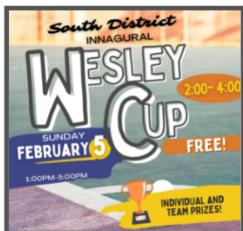


Youth Ministry

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

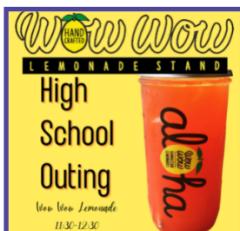


Youth Group Calendar grades 6-12



Feb. 5

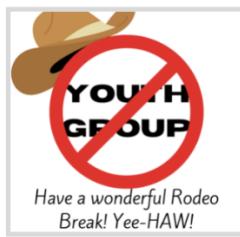
Feb. 12



Feb. 19



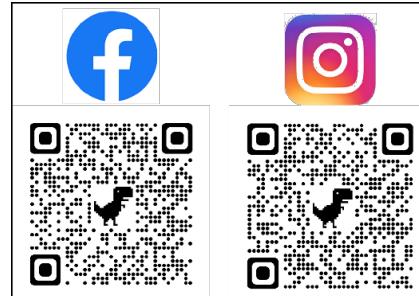
Feb. 26



March 5

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!

We're back!! St. Mark's and St. Paul's UMCs joined up and traveled to Mingus Mountain for Winter Camp and we all had so much fun! We met kids from around the conference, saw a TON of snow (16" fell while we were there), and got to worship in ways we never had before! Thank you all for your prayers as Rachel drove the van on the snowy mountain roads. (And thank you to Cat, director of camping and retreat ministries, for driving when Rachel was too nervous!) We hope next year we take even more kids!



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



NO MEETINGS FEBRUARY 12 & 26
ENJOY SUPERBOWL & RODEO BREAK!



FEB 5
SCAVENGER HUNT

FEB 19
MINUTE TO WIN IT

MARCH 5
MARIO PARTY NIGHT

Youth Ministry

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



SOUTH DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

Go And Do Likewise

District Event 1-5 p.m. Feb. 5

I love a little friendly competition! Join us Feb. 5 as we drive to St. Paul's UMC for the South District's inaugural Wesley Cup! This event will have kids from all over the South District who will compete in a few different contests, some physical, some cerebral. There is something for everyone! We may need parent drivers. Reserve your seat in the van today!



MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION

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 will work in teams with other students and chaperones from around Southern Arizona to spread God's love all around Tucson! More information coming soon.

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT



Woohoo! We got our dates, and we can start planning! Our work week in Tsaile, AZ will be June 25-July 1. This means our travel dates are June 23-July 1, and I have some fun ideas I am planning for our fun trip. I am so excited to be in mission with you! I have a few more spots, so if you are interested in joining us, let me know!

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 two service hours! Our next Service Sundays are Feb. 12 (in the morning), March 12 and April 23. Questions? Ask Rachel!

YOUTH 2023

July 23-28, 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. St. Mark's is taking 22 students and three adults on this awesome adventure – and we need to fundraise like crazy! Our first fundraiser will be an envelope fundraiser on Feb. 26 and March 5. If you are attending Youth 2023, please sign up for a shift each Sunday with Rachel! Keep checking that email – we have a lot of fundraisers lined up! Remember, your second installment (\$100) was due by Feb. 1!

WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP

District Event 1-5 p.m. Feb. 5: See full details at left!

Souper Bowl of Caring

After services Feb. 12
Nope, that's not a typo! This spelling is intentional! St. Mark's youth have partnered with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona for many, many years to collect money for the Souper Bowl of Caring. This isn't a fundraiser for US; it's a mission for us to help raise money for the Food Bank! Please meet Rachel in the courtyard at 9:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. to hold soup pots and smile!



High School Outing

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Feb. 12

WowWow Lemonade

7705 N. Oracle Road

Students in 9th-12th grades are invited to join Rachel at WowWow Lemonade on Feb. 12. We can't meet on Feb. 5 because we are all going to be so busy winning all of the games at the Wesley Cup. **Check out that time change:** We are meeting early enough that you can still make it home in time for the Super Bowl!!! If you are at Sunday School that day, ride to WowWow in the church van! Otherwise, we will see you there! This is a time for high school students to be in fellowship together, with some guided conversation. You bring the conversation, Rachel will provide the lemonade.

Underground Church

Feb. 19
We gotta hurry up and play many of your FAVORITE youth group games before the weather warms up! Join us Feb. 19 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!

It's Rodeo Time!

Feb. 26
I love living in Tucson! No tornadoes, no hurricanes – and Rodeo Break! Did you know only Tucson gets Rodeo Break? Take the weekend to catch the parade, go watch some rodeo events – or catch up on sleep! No youth on Feb. 26; enjoy your family!



Feb. 7—**Eli Mosher**

Feb. 13—**Grace Howell**

Feb. 15—**Tyler Drescher**



2022 Tax Credit Donation: St. Mark's Early Childhood Ctr.

Your generous tax credit donations allowed many of our kindergarten students to attend St. Mark's ECC's kindergarten program at a discounted rate and/or tuition-free!

By making a tax credit donation for 2022 you can receive dollar-for-dollar credit on your Arizona State Income Tax bill. Please consider making a tax credit donation to help our 2023/2024 students.

Go to <https://ibescholarships.org/> to make your tax credit donation. You can also call the school office at 520-797-2925 for more information. Tax credits for the 2022 tax year can be made any time until April 15, 2023 or when you file your 2022 Arizona tax return, whichever date is earlier.

Thank you for your support of a great education!

Do you or someone you know want to join St. Mark's UMC?

In January we welcomed 10 new members into our congregation! Make sure to introduce yourself and help them feel at home. Our next Membership Class is planned for Saturday, April 22, with new members joining the next day. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP early, please email tricia@umcstmarks.org.

What's New With the Markaritas?



On the chilly afternoon of Friday, Jan. 20, 23 Markaritas and guests traveled to the Tucson Jewish Museum and Holocaust Center in observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day, which was the following Friday, Jan. 27.

On Mardi Gras, also known as "Fat Tuesday" because it's the last chance to indulge before Lent begins the following day on Ash Wednesday, the Markaritas will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Mardi Gras themed game night. Come at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, anticipating a festive gathering. Guests are always welcome. And, of course, king cake will be served!

Upcoming Concert Events

Music fans, mark your calendars! Our Music Department has two concerts scheduled this month: Sandoli Trio at

2 p.m. Feb. 12 and the UA Symphonic Choir, at 3 p.m. Feb. 19.

The Sandoli Trio (Sandy, Dominic, and Lisa) first met when they were hired as teaching artists for Tucson's nationally acclaimed Opening Minds through the Arts program. To this day, the Sandoli Trio maintains a performance presence in Tucson through chamber concerts and educational programs.

The University of Arizona Symphonic Choir will share a compelling program on themes of war and peace, including popular music of the Civil Rights era, excerpts from Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, and powerful works by Undine Smith Moore, Katerina Gimon, Carol Barnett, and John W. Work, Jr. The personal testimonies of war refugees from Syria and Afghanistan who now reside in Tucson will be integrated with the musical works on this program. The concert also will incorporate movement choreographed by Prof. Brent Gibbs of the UA School of Theatre, Film and Television. Symphonic Choir is under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Schauer. Doctoral conductors Inho Eom and Jordan Shomper also will be featured on this dynamic program. A freewill offering will be collected at the conclusion of the concert to benefit Doctors Without Borders.

Save the Date for Pet Memorial

The Animal Ministry Team is pleased to announce its annual Pet Memorial Service at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 26.



We invite our church family and the local community to experience a time that acknowledges and respects the importance animals have held in our hearts and lives, and celebrates their place in God's creation. It doesn't matter how recent or long ago your loss occurred, or what type of animal you wish to remember. If you would like your pet's picture to appear in a video montage during the service, please email it (no texts) to ([see church directory for Sandi Heilman's email](#)) no later than Thursday, March 23. You can also bring your photo to the church office to be scanned.



February prayer requests

The St. Mark's Prayer Ministry Team provides monthly prayer requests for various church activities and services, mission opportunities and people we can pray for during the month. The monthly Prayer Requests are located on the church website under the "Ministries" tab, then "Congregational Care."

Got Tech Knowledge? The Tech Team Wants YOU!

Have you noticed the recent improvements in the online worship experience and the improved sound quality in the Sanctuary? Our use of technology in worship has been growing by leaps and bounds. We would love for you to be part of the team that helps us during our worship services. If this sounds like something you are being called toward, please let us know. Send an email to our Technology Coordinator Nick Hiratsuka at nick@umcstmarks.org or give a ring to the church office, 520-297-2062.

Lay Visitation Team Seeks Volunteers

Have you ever heard the joke about how to spot a Methodist at a meeting of many different types of Christians? You can spot the Methodist by seeing who talks to every person in the room. It is almost as if we have socializing encoded into our DNA, and St. Mark's is no different. However, not all of our church family is able to make it to church anymore and connect in the ways they used to connect. Instead of depending on people coming to the church, we send people out into the community in the name of the church to visit with people who are not able to stay connected regularly. We are looking for new people who would like to give this visiting a try. If this sounds like something you would enjoy, please reach out. You can send an email to Pastor Stuart at stuart@umcstmarks.org or call the church office at 520-297-2062 to learn more!

Sing With Palm Sunday and Easter Choirs

The Chancel Choir and Celebration Singers members encourage folks from the congregation to sing with us for Palm Sunday and Easter services. If you have previously sung in choirs, or have ever considered it, we welcome your voice and spirit for these two services! Rehearsals will be 7:30-9 p.m. March 22, March 29, and April 5 in the Sanctuary. If interested, please email jordan@umcstmarks.org.

Time for the SOUPer Bowl of Caring

Every year on Super Bowl Sunday, living rooms around the country are full of laughter, friendly competition, and



snacks! So many snacks. But for many Americans with food insecurity, snacks are a luxury. Our St. Mark's youth will be praying for people with food insecurities and collecting money to be donated to

the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona after worship services on Feb. 12. Look for the youth in the patio holding a soup pot! Our goal is to collect \$1,000 for the food bank!

Worldwide Christian Support Task Force: Christian Churches of Ukraine Closed by Russians

Russian forces have closed several Protestant churches in Ukraine, including the three largest churches in Melitopol, which is in the southeast.

They closed Word of Life Church. They tore down the cross in the largest church and turned the building into a sports and entertainment complex. Grace Baptist Church was raided and shut down during worship. Its pastor was forced to leave the city. This pattern was followed in Chkalovo

and Lysychansk, where church libraries were gutted, with Bibles and children's books tossed in a pile and leaders forced to leave. Occupation authorities in the Luhansk region have barred evangelical churches from re-registration, effectively shutting them down.

Prayer: Almighty Father, give strength to the Christians of eastern Ukraine as they are barred from gathering together to worship Jesus Christ. Open hearts to allow religious freedom for all Ukrainians.

Nash Elementary Thanks St. Mark's for 20 Years of Support

At a special celebration the afternoon of Friday, Jan. 27, the teachers and students at Nash Elementary School thanked St. Mark's volunteers for their support of the school for the past 20 years. Volunteers brought back lots of goodies, including a cake, an appreciation certificate and handwritten thank-you notes from the students.



PRAYER CORNER

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

Jared Bowman and family
Deb Cushman
Judy Drescher

April DuBoce
Keith and Mary Ann Glazier
Barb Osar

Mary Sanders
Carol Underwood
Jackie Vickers

CONDOLENCES

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of:

- **Judy Smith**, who died Dec. 23. Condolences can be sent to Judy's husband, Jerry, at (see church directory).
- **Cathy Good**, who died Jan. 5. Condolences can be sent to Cathy's husband, Roger, at (see church directory).
- **Joe Gibson**, who died Jan. 10. Condolences can be sent to Joe's daughter, Carey Gibson, at (call Pastor Stuart in the church office for address).



Dear Church Family...



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



Ukrainian Fulbright Scholar Alona Kladieva speaks to more than 120 people at the Jan. 11 Soul Station. Photo by Catheryn Simpson

"Thank you" is too small of a phrase to convey how I feel toward all of you. The hundreds of prayers and thoughts I got to help me find a place to live has been amazing. But then I received hundreds of additional prayers, the prayer quilt and cards when, 10 days after moving in, I had to have this revision amputation and received my diagnosis of Parkinson's. Your love has been overwhelming. The road ahead is long, but God has put my church family there beside me. Surrounded by God and all of you, I could not be more comforted. My appreciation and gratitude to you all.

Love in Christ, April DuBoce

Thank you to everyone who made our Ukrainian night happen. My first letter was two pages long. My biggest thanks go to Lynn and Stuart for embracing the idea last November. Next ap-

preciation is to Elizabeth Miller, who coordinated food and kitchen. She and her crew overcame obstacles of language, no recipes and ovens that didn't work with creativity and resilience. (Think cell phone translation.) It is awe-inspiring that they even pulled this off. Marge and Bob Sogn, Linda Martino, Karen Berry, Sue Beveridge, Darcy Halvorson and Stuart Salvatierra (expert potato peeler) -- thank you. The list is endless including staff, Diane James, Nick Hiratsuka, Kathy and Steve Narney, Ann Nollinger, Linda Sterling, Barb Sargent – thank you! Thank you to every single person who stepped up to the plate and offered help, whether it was folding cards or putting blueberries on the cheese dessert, clearing tables or rolling flatware. Most of all, thank you to everyone who attended. If success is measured by patience and the volume of the chatter and laughter, we hit it out of the ballpark. I see big things emerging from this group in support of Ukraine. This is the family I love and the reason I stay at St. Mark's.

*Maryann Nuckolls
Worldwide Christian Support Task Force
The Shepherd Project, Renovation Team*



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Reflections

How do we change the world through Christ?

On Jan. 29, the task force exploring a merger with Sanctuary UMC hosted simultaneous Town Hall meetings at St. Mark's and at Sanctuary. This was the first time we have presented the idea of a potential merger of our congregations with the wider church, and we were looking forward to feedback. If you missed that meeting but would like a copy of the FAQ we shared, contact the church office.

What I heard at this Town Hall meeting was an overwhelming majority of people who want to expand the reach of St. Mark's. We aren't in agreement that a merger is the way to accomplish it, but we know it needs to be done. We exist as a church "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," to quote the mission statement of the UMC. We exist as a local congregation to "change the world through Christ by caring for all people." Those gathered at the Town Hall meeting voiced that we aren't accomplishing that task well now; we need to be reaching and caring for more people.

This is our task whether or not we merge with another congregation, so how do we do that?

How do we reach people who are members of St. Mark's but are no longer attending? Our Renovation Team has been planning groups to connect people all over the church. They are inviting people to come back to the church, to connect with the faith family that was once home for them. It's a great start, but that's not enough.

How do we reach people who are moving into the area and need a church home? That's an easier task, as we as-

sume they had a church home elsewhere and would find home with us in their new community. There are mail lists we can utilize, ways to reach new people in town.

But even that is not enough. One of the signs of a vital and growing church is not how many transfers of membership we have, but how many adult baptisms we celebrate. How many professions of faith, first-time adults who surrender their life to Jesus. Churches that lead people to faith in Jesus Christ tend to be growing and exciting churches.

So what are we doing to reach more people? We first need to examine our reasons we want them to join St. Mark's. We don't reach more people to help us pay our bills. We don't reach younger people so they will carry on after we die. We don't reach more people so they will volunteer and we can take a break. All of those things are potentially good outcomes, but they are all selfish reasons to invite people.

We reach more people because they need to know Christ. We reach more people because we know that a relationship with Christ changed our lives and can change theirs. We reach more people because we are surrounded by people who are hungry for the life we have in Jesus.

I don't know the future of these talks with Sanctuary. But I do know that the mission field is outside of our doors. How will we carry the message of Christ to a world that is hungry to know the love and grace offered through the cross?

*See you soon.
Pastor Lynn*