

Messenger

Changing the world through Christ by caring for all people.

Volume 63, Number 1

Jan. 4, 2023



New Safety Feature

If you've come into the office in the last month, you have noticed a new safety feature the Trustees had installed. A new glass door has been installed in the front office to protect our staff from unwanted visitors. This safety feature has made our staff feel more safe when they are in the office alone and the front door is unlocked. It is a change that will take getting used to, but we appreciate the Trustees' commitment to keep our staff safe! If your key opens the office door, it will open the glass door. And, if you need to check your group's or your mailbox, it's still accessible.



New Office Hours

Now that our office is fully staffed again, we are expanding our office hours in the new year. We are open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to noon on Friday. Please note that none of our administrative staff are full-time. Some come in at 9 and leave at 1, while others come in at 10 and stay until 3. To best meet with them, send an email or call first.



Special Ukraine Presentation at Soul Station Jan. 11

Soul Station midweek worship resumes Wednesday, Jan. 11 with a very special guest speaker you won't want to miss!



Alona Yurievna Kladieva, a Ukrainian Fulbright Scholar now at the University of Arizona, was forced to leave Ukraine because of the war. She shares her story and her perspective about the conflict in Ukraine. All

St. Mark's members and attendees and their friends and family are invited for an authentic Ukrainian meal.

On Sunday, Jan. 8, cards are being passed out for dinner reservations. You will also have a chance to list questions

New Year Brings Change in Faces

With a new year, we have a change in elected leadership here at St. Mark's. We offer a big THANK YOU for these leaders who are ending their time as chairs of their committees. Please express your gratitude to them next time you see them or send them a card of thanks! Being a chairperson is often a thankless job, and we appreciate all they have done to serve Christ and the church in this way.

Brenda Hunter, Covenant Council Chair
Don Booth, Lay Leader
Tom Ellis, Chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee
Linda Hill, Chair of Trustees
Bill Zermuehlen, Chair of Finance Committee
John Yost, Chair of Missions Committee
Kathy Parrish, Chair of Counselor-in-Residence Committee

A list of the administrative committees is available in the church office if you wish to see the elected leadership for the coming year, and we will celebrate them in worship on Jan. 8. Thank you for your prayers for the work these committees do!

If you would like to serve on a committee or chair a committee, let us know. You can contact the office at 520-297-2062 or info@umcstmarks.org. We invite you all to pray for the leadership of the church, both committee chairs and committee members.

Nominations Committee

to guide what Alona shares with us. Or email your reservation or questions to Pastor Stuart at stuart@umcstmarks.org. As a Fulbright Scholar, Alona is not allowed to hold a job. We will collect a freewill offering to donate to her.

She sent notes of support from St. Mark's members to her family and their neighborhood in Ukraine. She tells them about our prayer services, ribbons, special music, and Jim Johnson's sunflowers. They are moved by our care and concern for them and their country. Your support on the 11th will show what is best about Americans and Christians. Please sign up on Sunday. Wear those ribbons. (Don't have one? Stop by the church office!) Join us on the 11th.

Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Program begins at 6:15 in person and online. Sponsored by the Worldwide Christian Support Task Force, which will have an information table on the patio that evening.

Renovation Team Update

Ministry Architects and your Renovation Team have been busy the past two months. We have been working on five projects for St. Mark's renovation.

- We are forming a prayer team specifically to support the renovation work. God's help will be needed during the 18-month process.
- 1 Peter 5:2-3 encourages us to be shepherds to one another. Last month, Pastor Lynn urged us to reconnect with friends who we have not seen in a while. "The Shepherd Project" is designed to support members by connecting in Christian friendship. For more information, contact Maryann Nuckolls (see church directory) or Linda Martino (call church office for contact info).
- We are working with staff to update the attendance database.
- We are forming small groups of members who have similar interests to create additional fellowship within the St. Mark's congregation. Two new groups have formed and are already meeting.
- And, we are planning to host a church-wide reunion event in May or June.

Soon we will look at items still on the "Now List" to see which should be targeted as priorities. The St. Mark's renovation is off to a good start. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at renovatiionteam@umcstmarks.org. We would like to hear from you.

Your Renovation Team:

Sara Dimond, Maryann Nuckolls, Diane Hiratsuka, Bill Zermuehlen, Linda Martino

Stewardship Campaign Update

The 2023 stewardship campaign is nearly complete. As of Dec. 11, we have received pledge cards totaling \$699,126. This usually represents about 75% of our annual income. That would mean we should budget for about \$932,168 for 2023.

The number of pledge cards returned has steadily decreased from 345 cards in 2020 to 209 cards in 2023, even as the average giving has increased. And since the pandemic began, quite a few people have switched to giving regularly online. We have found that a good percentage of these people didn't submit pledge cards, probably thinking the church already had that information. When we add that information, our pledges total \$815,413. And again, if that represents 75% of our 2023 total budget, this would change our budgeted amount to \$1,087,217.

This past year through November our income was \$1,013,318, and our expenses were \$925,617. This gave us a surplus of \$87,701 going into the month of December, due to your generous contributions and everyone doing a great job controlling expenses. The pandemic has provided additional challenges to us financially. Although we saved money by not having to pay as much for the electricity and upkeep of the facilities and staff, we had to hope our church family would continue to support us financially. **And you did!!!**

We also received money via federal grants through the Payroll Protection Program and the American Rescue Plan. However, even without those grants, the church would have been able to maintain a healthy financial standing.

The Finance Committee is working on the 2023 budget. **We are grateful for your support for our church and its missions!**

Emmaus Community to Gather

The St. Mark's Emmaus Community will have its next gathering Sunday, Jan. 22 in the Fellowship Hall. We'll gather for fellowship at 4:30 p.m., eat at 5 p.m., and have singing, testimony, homily, and Holy Communion starting at 5:30. Please bring a dish



to share. Paper products and drinks will be provided. Any questions or concerns, contact Susan Putt (see church directory).

Markaritas to Take Field Trip to Tucson Jewish Museum

In recognition of **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**, and in light of the alarming and unfortunate rise in hate crimes and antisemitism, the Markaritas will visit the Tucson Jewish Museum & Holocaust Center. We will meet for a private tour at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20, at the museum, 564 S. Stone Ave. This will provide us an opportunity to learn more about this culture and its history. Parking is limited. Anyone willing to drive others or who would like to ride with others should meet in the church's south parking lot at 12:50 p.m. Also, the 1:30 start allows time to enjoy lunch with friends. (Please make these arrangements on your own.) There is no admission fee, but donations are appreciated. You might visit the museum's website at <https://www.jewishhistorymuseum.org/> before we go. Finally, although RSVPs are not usually required for Markaritas gatherings, I will let the museum know how many of us to expect so they can better accommodate us. Therefore, please RSVP to me (Susan Putt) no later than Friday, Jan. 13 at [\(see church directory\)](#).

Adult Spiritual Growth

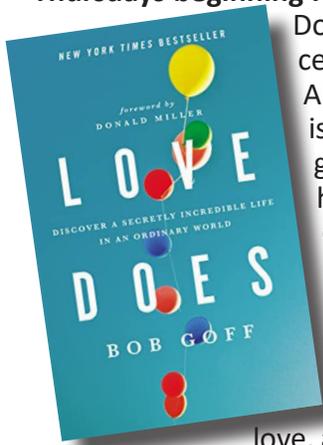
Faith is a journey!

Spring Lineup of Spiritual Formation Opportunities

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.)

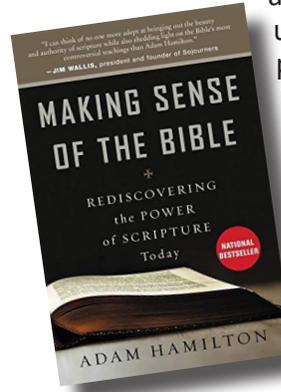
"Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World" by Bob Goff. 6:30-7:30 p.m. for five Thursdays beginning Feb. 2 in Room 20. Led by KJ Naae.

Do you recall the challenge of a December Advent theme of living an Altogether Love? The how to do so is what this study is about. "Real growth happens when you learn how to tap into the empowering, energizing love of God." 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, and how our new passions become bound to God's plan. Love is something you *do*.



Bible 101: "Making Sense of the Bible" by Adam Hamilton. 6:30-8 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 16-Feb. 20 in Room 17/18. Led by Don Booth and Kaki Johnson. The Bible as

a book is creative, imaginative, thrilling, uplifting, sorrowful, joyful, and full of promise. But how did it get this way? Where did it come from? Is it really the story of how the world was saved? Bible 101 will guide participants through the basics of the entire Bible including, but certainly not limited to, who wrote it, how it is organized into books, what some books have in common with each other, what differentiates the Old from the New

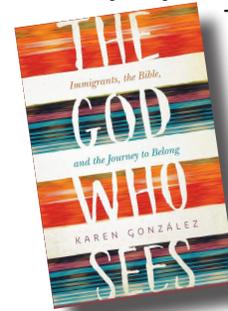


Testament, the numerous Biblical characters, major stories and more. Whew! "Making Sense of the Bible" by Adam Hamilton will be the resource study book for this class, but other resources will also be used. Bible 101 is for everyone, for those yearning for an introduction as well as for those who would enjoy a refresher.

Wednesday Morning Study Group

"The God Who Sees" by Karen Gonzalez. 10-11:30 a.m. in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Six weeks beginning Jan. 4. Led by Joylee Gathings. Contact Marcia Rostad for info.

This book discusses the Bible stories of people who have crossed borders and sought refuge much like Hagar, Joseph, Ruth, and Jesus. The author interweaves these Biblical stories to that of her own family fleeing Guatemala and immigrating to the USA. Through these stories we learn how we are called to welcome immigrants into the family of God.



Continued on page 4

Open Minds Book Group

Monthly Friday discussion, 9-10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Do you enjoy discussing the books you read? This St. Mark's book group is for you! Books may be borrowed from the Pima County Library or purchased (new or used) from book sellers such as Amazon or Barnes & Noble. Bookshop.org, <https://bookshop.org>, supports local bookstores. Co-leaders are Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban.

Jan. 27: "The Lost Family: How DNA Testing is Upending Who We Are," by Libby Copeland (2020). You swab your cheek or spit in a vial, then send it to a lab for analysis. From this process, you can learn where your ancestors are from or whether you carry certain genetic risks. Or the report could reveal a long-buried family secret that turns your sense of identity upside down. In this modern detective story, Copeland investigates the culture of genealogy buffs, the science of DNA, and the business of companies such as Ancestry and 23andMe, while relating the odyssey of one woman, her unusual results, and her relentless drive for answers.

Feb. 24: "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," by Rebecca Skloot (2011). 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 more than 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.

March 24: "The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women," by Kate Moore (2018). Radium, discovered by the Curies at the end of the 19th Century, was widely used during World War I by young women working in radium-dial factories. As they begin to fall mysteriously ill, the factory owners try to cover up the shocking cause, and the "shining girls" become embroiled in one of the biggest scandals of America's early 20th Century. Moore's gripping narrative illuminates the courage and tenacity of these incredible women whose determination to fight back led to new industry regulations that have saved thousands of lives.

April 21: "The Eagles of Heart Mountain: A True Story of Football, Incarceration, and Resistance in WWII America," by Bradford Pearson (2021). In summer 1942, more than 11,000 Japanese Americans were sent to Heart Mountain Relocation Camp on the desolate outskirts of Cody, WY. The same racism and discrimination that led to their removal from the West Coast continued in the camp, where there was little joy; that is, until fall 1943, when the Heart Mountain High School football team formed. Despite huge disadvantages, the Eagles ran through the competition—teams from majority-white schools from WY and MT. This fascinating history is not only about a football team—it's about a group of people wronged by their government who stand up to say, "Enough."

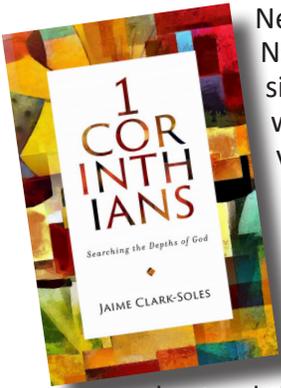
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Adult Sunday School

9:30-11 a.m.: "1 Corinthians: Searching the Depths of God" by Jaime Clark-Soles. Six weeks beginning Jan. 8 (no class Jan. 29) in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Led by Rick Farnsworth and Carl Harrison. Imagine studying the

New Testament with an outstanding New Testament scholar sitting by your side. That's the sense readers will have with this book (with accompanying video). It is a conversational, accessible, and useful guide to one of the New Testament's most important letters. But this study can go beyond helping readers understand this letter by the Apostle Paul to the church in Corinth. It can also help you understand that ancient letter like it was intended

for its original audience while applying it to the messiness of our own culture. Check with class leaders (see church directory) for book availability, or acquire through your



favorite resource. Please pre-register if you choose to attend via Zoom to receive connection information.

11:15-12:15 p.m. Bible study: Check the Adult Spiritual Growth bulletin board Sundays on the patio for the book of the Bible currently being studied.

Coming in February!

Prayer Bead Class – 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 18. Watch the Adult Spiritual Growth patio bulletin board for more information and registration. Leader: Brenda Hunter.

"Prayer: Does It Matter?" By Philip Yancy. Six-week class from 6:30-8 p.m. on Thursdays starting Feb. 23 via Zoom. Leader: Brenda Hunter.



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 in conversation. No matter who you are, feel free to pop in during our next meeting at 9 a.m. Jan. 15 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.



2023 Messenger Deadline Schedule Coming Soon

The 2023 **Messenger** schedule will soon be available on the St. Mark's website. On the home page, <https://umcstmarks.org/> scroll down to "Deadlines & Archived Newsletters" under the "Newsletters" heading.

The next issue publishes on Feb. 1 and the deadline to submit information is Jan. 24. Submit information for the **Messenger** to messenger@umcstmarks.org.



Quilters Donate Almost 700 Quilts in 2022

Thank you to our congregation!

A group of St. Mark's ladies have been meeting at church most Thursday mornings to make lap-sized quilts. These quilts go to many groups in the Tucson area, to be given to someone who needs a warm hug from a quilt. The groups include AVIVA, Healthy Families, Blake Foundation, Emerge, Pura a Vida and San Nicolas for Assisted Living, The Haven, Nash Elementary School, and to immigrants. We also make Angel Quilts that are donated to grieving parents of babies born too soon. Before the quilts leave here, they are blessed by one of our pastors. YOU have helped make these quilts with all the fabrics, materials and money you have donated to us. Together last year we made and donated 669 quilts!

If you would like to sew with us or visit and see how we make these quilts, please stop by between 9 and 11:30 a.m. Thursdays in Room 17/18. For more information you can also contact Gail Blevins (call church office for contact info). Donations of cotton fabric, batting, and monetary gifts are always greatly appreciated.

St. Mark's Quilters



Children's/Family Ministries Committee Needs Members

Are you looking for a new way to serve St. Mark's in the New Year? Are you interested in helping children grow in their faith? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions then we invite you to join the Children's and Family Ministries Committee. This committee meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in Room 8/9 to plan Sunday School and family and community events, discuss curriculum and find creative ways to nurture children in their faith.

The next committee meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 10. We will brainstorm ideas for the 2023 Easter event. We are also always looking for helpers and substitute Sunday School teachers. No experience is needed, just a kind and loving heart. For more information or to be added to the committee meeting reminder email list, email julie@umcstmarks.org.

Julie Eblen, Children's and Family Ministries Coordinator



Come to Special Interest Meet-and-Greet 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! **These events are 9-10:15 a.m. on the specified Sundays in the church library.** Coffee and a treat will be provided. For more information contact Diane Hiratsuka (see church directory).

- **Jan. 8:** Do you enjoy walking, hiking, biking, birding, gardening, and other outdoor activities? Please come meet others who share your interests. Wouldn't it be nice to find some church friends to walk or bike with or who share your love of birds?
- **Jan. 22:** Are you a veteran or first responder? We want to meet you! We have many in our congregation who have proudly served our country. Please join us to meet others with a similar background. If you can, bring a picture of yourself in uniform or some other memorabilia from your time serving. All veterans, active military, and active and retired first responders are welcome!
- **Feb. 5:** 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? Watch for an announcement for a Meet 'n Greet for you in February.

What the Heck is '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 (formerly United Methodist Women) will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, via Zoom ONLY. Come early for refreshments. All are welcome. Our program will be a speaker from Tucson Metropolitan Ministries Family Services. TMM has been around many years.



United
Women
in Faith

Several of our pastors and leaders have helped with TMM's services provided to Tucson's homeless families and people living in poverty. Please contact Secretary Kay Hayworth (see church directory) or leave a note in the United Women in Faith mailbox in the church office if you want to receive the Zoom link. All women are invited. If you have questions or need a ride, please contact President Clara Campbell (see church directory).

Special-Interest Potlucks

- **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, Jan. 8, 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.
- **Ohio people, let's meet and talk about Buckeyes!** 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, in the Fellowship Hall. We'll grab pizza and ask you all to bring a salad. (Maybe pitch in a few bucks for the pizza!) RSVP to donna@reedtucson.com. Plan to bring a piece of trivia or something special about where you grew up or lived. (In Ohio, in case you haven't already figured that out!!)



Thank You from the Chair

St. Mark's has always been known for its generous financial support of many missions projects throughout our community and beyond. In addition, dozens of individuals and groups from our church family make an impact every day through thousands of hours of volunteer service. 2022 was another great year! St. Mark's does what God asks us to do by committing a true tithe of 10% of all giving to missions. This year, motivated by the ongoing war in Ukraine, St. Mark's donated a record amount of almost \$35,000 to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to help in its work in Ukraine and around the world. About 30 of our members have become involved in helping our new refugee neighbors through Tucson Refugee Ministry, and we welcomed a new mission partner, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Charitable Organization, with half of our Thanksgiving special offering. Together we helped to feed the hungry, cared for the homeless, aided our youth, welcomed new arriving neighbors from all over the world, packed and served thousands of meals, supported those suffering from abuse, repaired homes, made hundreds of quilts and prayer shawls, donated more than 21,000 lbs. of food to the food bank, and so much more. Through our financial support and volunteer time, we have helped thousands of people needing assistance through more than 40 different organizations in our community and around the world. Thank you so much!

Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of one of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

John Yost, Outgoing Missions Committee Chair

Market on the Move is Jan. 7



Market on the Move is ready for another season of community service beginning Jan. 7 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 7:45 a.m. New recruits are always welcome. There will be a sign-up sheet on the courtyard bulletin board or you can text Len-na: (see church directory) for further info.

Sign Up NOW to Serve Dinner at Primavera Men's Shelter

Hear ye! Hear ye! It's a new year with new opportunities to be Christ's hands and feet and to show His love through the preparation and serving of a hot meal at the Primavera Men's Shelter.



Profuse thanks to all the kitchen angels and meal teams who participated in 2022! This experience is like nothing else. Come and see. Taking reservations for Saturdays, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11, April 8 and April 29. May, June and July also have slots open on SignUp Genius. Volunteer today at

<https://tinyurl.com/PrimaveraMeals>.

Minimum six people on a team. Receive kitchen training, list for purchasing groceries, recipes and guidance. Have close fellowship. Make new friends and experience the joy, the service, the giving and the love that flows from being blessed to be a blessing!



End of Year ICS Food Update

We just completed our third year of weekly food collections in support of the Northwest Food Bank at Interfaith Community Services. Can you believe it? Hear the good news. Our church family donated more than 21,000 lbs. in 2022 and 60,000 lbs. since we started this great ministry. Praise God! Together, we have put thousands of additional meals on the table for individuals and families needing food assistance in Southern Arizona. BUT, our food collection ministry is not finished. We continue to collect non-perishable food donations from 10-11 a.m. every Tuesday and Saturday in the north parking lot of the church. You can also drop off your donations at the church office during its business hours. All donations are appreciated and help us make a difference. Donations largely come from individuals picking up an extra couple of items while doing their shopping. Please consider doing that if you are able.

GOT CITRUS??

The food bank is happy to receive donations of quality, ready-to-eat citrus that may be available to you. Maybe from your neighbors' trees too! Thanks for your help!

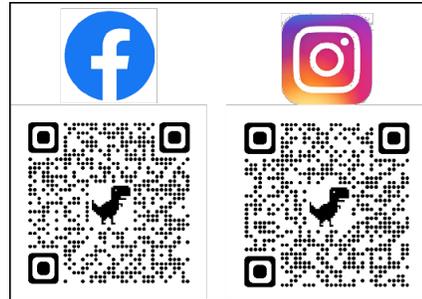
Youth Ministry

The latest news for High School, Middle School and Pre Teen Students!



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!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

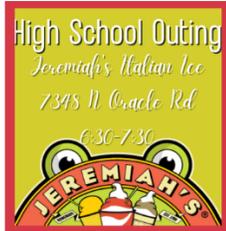
We had such a fun 2022. Thank you all for being part of our group and part of our church family! I hope you all had a very merry Christmas, and I am really looking forward to everything 2023 has in store for us!



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



Youth Group Calendar grades 6-12



Jan. 8

Jan. 13-16



Jan. 22



Jan. 28



Jan. 29



Feb. 5
(District Event)



NO MEETING JAN 15
MLK DAY WEEKEND



JAN 8
MARIO PARTY NIGHT



JAN 22
MOVIE & BOARD GAME NIGHT!



JAN 29
ESCAPE ROOM ACTIVITY

Youth Ministry

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



WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP

Service Sunday January 8

Time to get our bake on! Join us for a Service Sunday, baking cookies and performing other service. We will have fun, serve others, and who knows what else!? You'll have to come to find out. As always, Rachel will sign for service hours!

High School Outing January 8, 6:30-7:30

Jeremiah's Italian Ice
7348 N. Oracle Road

Students in 9th-12th grades are invited to join Rachel right after youth group. You are welcome to meet us there 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.

Goose Chase Scavenger Hunt January 22

Digital scavenger hunts are so fun! Join a team and get ready to earn the points!! Each group will have at least one phone to use to take fun pictures and see if they can get more points than the other teams. Wear your running shoes!

Confirmation Field Trip January 28, 10:00-2:00

Confirmation class isn't only our weekly classes! We also have field trips during the year. In October, we attended a Shabbat service; in December we served dinner at Primavera; and now in January, we will go to Mission San Xavier to learn a little more about our Catholic heritage! Meet Rachel at 10 a.m. at the Wesley House, and we should be back around 2 p.m. Wear close-toed shoes and bring money for fry bread!

Mario Mania January 29

The last Sunday in January promises to be a fun gathering at the Wesley House! There will be three screens, three Nintendo Switches (I hope!), and three games going at once. Join in or cheer on your friends – the choice is yours. OR you can all see just how terrible Rachel is at video games! That in and of itself will offer laughs and good times. See you then!

High School Outing February 12, 11:30-12:30

WowWow Lemonade
7705 N. Oracle Road

Notice the different time and place! Due to the District event, we will move to the second Sunday, and nice and early so you don't miss the Super Bowl! Students in 9th-12th grades are invited to join Rachel Feb. 12 right after Sunday School at WowWow Lemonade. This is a time for high school students to be in fellowship and conversation together. You bring the conversation, I'll provide the treats.



Jan. 2—**Liam DaDeppo**
Jan. 9—**Isiah Weiler**
Jan. 9—**Zoe Newell**
Jan. 28—**Drew Norine**

WINTER CAMP

January 13-16, \$75

Winter camp is coming! It is going to be a fun weekend of camp activities (hiking, games, archery, etc.) and hopefully SNOW! We will meet at 5 p.m. Jan. 13 at the Wesley House and return the following Monday afternoon. (There is no school, it's MLK Day!) To register, follow the QR code, but please talk to Rachel first! Scholarships are available.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION

May 30-June 1, Grades 6-8

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 teams with chaperones 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 Tsailie, 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!

SOUTH DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

Go And Do Likewise

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

This year, we have an exciting new event in the South District! Join us for the inaugural Wesley Cup at St. Paul's UMC! This event will have kids from all over the South District who will compete in a few different competitions – some physical, some cerebral. There is something for everyone! We may need parent drivers.



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 Jan. 8 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. With workshops, live worship, and amazing musical tal-

ent, this is an event you do NOT want to miss. We have signed up and are ready to start that fundraising.



Coffee With ... Church & Society

Stop by the church library between and after worship services on Sunday, Jan. 15, to greet members of the Church & Society Committee. You will have a chance to learn more about what the committee does and its plans for the coming year, as well as offer your ideas for potential topics and activities for the committee to take on. And if you're interested in what you hear, you could even join the group!



Church
&
Society

Holocaust Remembrance Jan. 27

International Holocaust Remembrance Day is an international memorial day Jan. 27 that commemorates the victims of the Holocaust – 17 million people (6 million of whom were Jews) targeted by the government of Nazi Germany based on their ethnicity, religion, political beliefs, or sexual orientation.

According to their eugenics policy, the Nazis believed that those considered an affront to their notion of a society composed of a perfect race should be eliminated.

The institutionalized practice by the Nazis began with legalized social discrimination against specific groups, involuntary hospitalization, euthanasia, and forced sterilization of people considered physically or mentally unfit for society. About 375,000 people were sterilized against their will due to their disabilities. Those with disabilities were among the first to be murdered.

The vast majority of the Nazi regime's victims were Jews, Sinti-Roma peoples, and Slavs such as Poles, Russians, Ukrainians, Slovenes, Serbs and others. Nazi persecution included: non-judicial incarceration, confiscation of property, forced labor, sexual slavery, death through overwork, human experimentation, undernourishment, and execution through a variety of methods. For specified groups such as the Jews, genocide was the Nazis' primary goal.

Homosexual men were also targets of the Holocaust, since male homosexuality was deemed incompatible with Nazism. Homosexuals were unlikely to produce children and increase the German birthrate. According to the Nazis, "inferior races" produced more children than Aryans, so anything that diminished Germany's reproductive potential was considered a racial danger. Many homosexuals who were liberated from the concentration camps continued to be persecuted in postwar Germany.

The purpose of this day of remembrance is to prevent these kinds of atrocities brought about by blind nationalism and racism from happening again. It behooves all of us to make sure our laws and actions do not perpetuate this kind of prejudice and injustice to any other peoples.

Cross-Border Tour Opportunity

Sponsored by St. Mark's Church & Society Committee and Borderlands Community Alliance

Who: Anyone interested in learning first-hand about current borderlands issues.

When: Feb. 15.

Cost: \$75 per person. You must have a valid U.S. passport. We will leave St. Mark's in the church van at 7:30 a.m. Arrive at the Border Community Alliance office in Tubac at 8:30 for an orientation. From there, we will take the church van to the U.S. side of the border, where we will park the van, walk across the border and meet our Mexican tour guide at 10 a.m. The tour will get us back to the U.S. border by 4 p.m. for our return ride to St. Mark's, arriving back between 5:30 and 6 p.m. The amount of walking during the tour is minimal. If interested or for more information, contact Art Ragland at (see church directory).

Border Community Alliance is dedicated to championing public literacy in current borderlands issues, anthropology, economics, history, and geography. Educational and inspirational, the tour provides an orientation to the rising, non-profit, economic and civil sectors of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

The Mexican tour guide is Alma Cota de Yanez, who has been organizing in Nogales, Sonora, for more than 15 years. She is fluent in English and Spanish and is an outstanding cultural interpreter. The U.S. tour guide is Rev. Jerry Haas. Stops will include:

1. Mexican Methodist church, visiting pastor Francisco.
2. Casa de la Misericordia migrant shelter. This shelter houses asylum seekers and their families, with legal services provided by our UM ministry initiative, Arizona Justice for Our Neighbors.
3. ARSOBO (Arizona Sonora Border NGO), which manufactures projects for inclusion – durable wheelchairs, prosthetics, hearing aids – a bi-national organization.
4. Tour of Nuevo Nogales – An overview of the city and its industrial and new housing projects.
5. Visit with U.S. Consulate staff. Nogales is unique in that there is both a U.S. Consulate (in Nogales, Sonora) and a Mexican Consulate (in Nogales, Arizona). Conversations with Consul General Laura Biedebach (available, depending on her schedule) give Americans a rare chance to dialogue with a State Department official.

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

Join Pastor Lynn and Church Care Coordinator Tricia Chester from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, in the church library to learn about St. Mark's – our priorities and plans, as well as history and United Methodist beliefs. Class is open to new visitors, longtime friends, and all between! Anyone wishing to become a member of our wonderful church will have the opportunity to do so during services the following day. Any "already-members" will have the chance to join our list of sponsors for future members! Please RSVP by emailing tricia@umcstmarks.org; we do plan to feed you! And Tricia will have some additional questions before we get together.

January 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." Or if you are reading this online, follow this link: https://umcstmarks.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/monthlyprayerlist_0123.pdf

Just Breathe Yoga – Inspired by Holy Yoga™ – Resumes Jan. 12

Just Breathe provides an opportunity for fellowship with others while stretching, practicing controlled breathing techniques, reflecting on scriptures, building flexibility and strength, and once in a while, breaking a sweat! Come as you are; we have mats, straps, and blocks available for borrowing. You may also choose to sit in a chair. All levels and abilities are welcome; wear clothes you can move in, bring your water, and bring a friend! There is a suggested donation of \$5/person/class.



We will begin the year at **2 p.m. Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall.** Here is a link and QR Code to the SignUp Genius. You must RSVP via the SignUp Genius (QR code or <https://tinyurl.com/JustBreathe2023>) or by emailing tricia@umcstmarks.org by the Tuesday prior to class. If we have

fewer than five people signed up, class must be canceled.



Tricia Chester, a registered Yoga instructor with Holy Yoga™ and self-proclaimed body nerd, has been leading *Just Breathe* at St. Mark's UMC since 2018. She is also certified to teach yoga to pregnant women, children, infants, and parents/caregivers of babies. The only rule at *Just Breathe* is to **just breathe**; sometimes your body just needs a nap or deep breathing instead of movement. Sometimes your body craves movement different than what's being led at the front of the

room. As long as you're breathing, everything is fine!

Tricia looks forward to seeing you soon, but until then, remember to *just breathe* and maybe take a nap. You know, even Jesus took naps (Mark 4:38)!

Check Out Welcome Center Art

Stop by the Welcome Center after services this month to grab a refreshment and check out the current art show, "Looking Back at St. Mark's 2022." All photos were taken by our members and staff over the past year. If you are interested in displaying your art in the Welcome Center in 2023, contact Tricia in the office, tricia@umcstmarks.org.



Photo Directories Are Here

Please email Tricia Chester, tricia@umcstmarks.org, or contact the church office to request your copy. There is a suggested donation of \$10 for each printed photo directory. This may be given via the office, our website, snail mail, or the offering plate (clearly designate Photo Directory and your name); digital copies are free!



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

Carol Underwood
Jackie Vickers

CONDOLENCES

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

- Ruth Fahden, who died Nov. 25. Her daughter said Ruth loved this community with all of her heart.
- Ray Bascom, who died Nov. 28 in the company of his beloved wife, Carol Ann, and their family.
- Milton Vogt, who died Nov. 29. Please keep his wife, Joan, and Milton's family in your hearts and prayers as they move forward during this time.
- Barbara Fradenburgh, who died the morning of Dec. 22. Please pray for her daughter, Joan, and the rest of their family as they navigate this time. Her celebration of life is at 2 p.m. Arizona time Jan. 7 in the Sanctuary.



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Website:
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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...

Thank you all so very much for showing up Dec. 2 at the Food Bank to help fill 3,330 bags, which equaled 19,980 lbs. of food for those in need in our community!!! Wow, did we work as a team or what?!!!! Great job! Thanks to those who keep returning time after time and for those who went for the first time. Please mark your calendars and spread the news! We are scheduled for Jan. 13, Feb. 10 and March 18. I'll send out reminders when the time gets near.

--KJ Naae

A big thank-you to St. Mark's for again showing compassion and generosity for the families of Nash Elementary School. Nash Neighbors Chair Carol Cecilia and I delivered to the principal, Dr. Becerra, a total of 172 gift cards worth \$4,285. These (were) distributed to those most in need to help with Christmas gifts. As we sat in her office that morning, to hear Dr. Becerra telling just a few stories of some of their needs due to unexpected family emergencies that included illness and death of a parent, our hearts were heavy with concern and a desire to do even more. I've helped with the Nash Neighbors committee for a few years and am so grateful for all the difference this committee makes at the school, made possible by your gifts and love, and we pray to be able to do even more for this wonderful school.

--Sue Pierce

Thanks to the quilting group for making 25 blankets for our refugee neighbor families that are welcoming new babies into the world. They were made with love and will be put to good use. The receiving families and Tucson Refugee Ministry are grateful. If anyone or group is interested in visiting refugee mothers and their children contact Marji Brecht at marji@tucsonrefugeeministry.com. Befriending Americans is a key part in helping newly arriving refugees acclimate into our lifestyle.

--John Yost

My heart is filled with gratitude for each person that helped to bring the Christmas play to St. Mark's. Over 40 individuals either acted, built props, changed scenes, ushered, designed and printed programs, created signs, offered technical assistance, led the music, cooked our dress rehearsal dinner, brought cookies for the reception, or made sure that everything used got back to where it belonged! I could never utter enough thank you's. It was a profound joy to offer this as a Christmas gift to all who attended or watched it on the livestream. --Evy McDonald

Reflections

A New Partnership?

Sanctuary UMC, our sister church that we helped launch decades ago, has joined countless other churches in facing an uncertain future after COVID. With fewer numbers in worship and declining financial gifts, the church is seeing a crossroads a ways ahead of them that will require hard decisions. As a result, their leadership reached out to the St. Mark's Covenant Council to begin a conversation about partnering again in ministry. Our Covenant Council met jointly with theirs on Nov. 22 and had conversation led by our Conference Director of New and Vital Faith Communities, Rev. Rachel Gilmore.

At that meeting, leadership from both churches discussed who we are as individual churches, the work we are doing with Ministry Architects, and our SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles, and Threats). A vote was taken at the end of the meeting to determine if we should proceed in exploring ways to be in partnership. No one voted "no." Eight voted to move forward with no reservations. Eighteen people voted to move forward with deliberation and caution – the key point being to move forward. The conclusion is that all who voted are interested in continuing to explore the concept of partnering.

A task force has been created to lead this exploration, made up of Pastors Lynn and Kevin and five laity: three from St. Mark's and two from Sanctuary. John Cecilia and Richard Howell have agreed to serve; we are waiting on the third person to say yes.

We intend for this work to begin quickly in January, with weekly meetings helping us move toward a town hall meeting at each church at the end of the month, hopefully on Jan. 29. Work will be transparent and collaborative, and decisions will

not be made without the Covenant Council or the congregation. The work will happen in tandem with the work of the Ministry Architects, who are on board to assist as needed.

As your pastor, I believe this work is timely for us to explore. While COVID thwarted our efforts to establish a second campus at Dove Mountain, we had energy and momentum to embrace a multi-site model of ministry. We are more prepared now than we were five years ago to consider the Sanctuary campus and congregation as a multi-site of St. Mark's. There are different challenges to this than in what we were previously doing—how do we keep the identity and history of a church while also streamlining administrative efforts, worship, and outreach? Yet despite the challenges, it's an exciting time, with nearly endless possibilities.

Our task as a church is to change the world through Christ by caring for all people. We seek to expand the Kingdom for Christ as we reach new people. Can we do that best by partnering together with Sanctuary? Will the mission field be best served by this new relationship? Please pray for this task force. These conversations can go many ways, and we seek clarity for the work. We seek the Spirit's guidance as we view the possibilities ahead of us and focus in the direction best for both churches.

We will share more information as the work continues.
Blessings,
Pastor Lynn

