

# Messenger

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

St. Mark's  
United Methodist

## Lent Begins Ash Wednesday

We have multiple ways for you to connect and participate in the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday Feb. 22, which is the publication date of this Messenger. There is an option to "drop in" for ashes in the morning from 6-9 a.m. in the Sanctuary. A pastor will be present in the Sanctuary for this whole time to impose ashes on your forehead or hand and say prayers with you for the start of your day. You may also choose to drop in for ashes at Sanctuary UMC, 7620 N. Hartman Lane, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

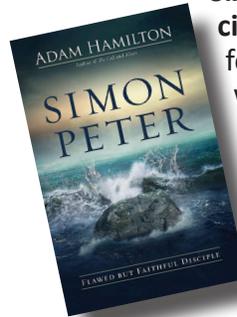


In the evening we will meet at 6:30 in the St. Mark's Sanctuary for a worship service. Our Ash Wednesday service will focus on the day being the start of the holy season of Lent when we prepare ourselves for Jesus dying on the cross, overcoming sin and death, and resurrecting on Easter morning. This service will include the imposition of ashes and a celebration of Holy Communion.

## Lent Brings Lenten Studies

### 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.



### 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

*Continued on page 3*

## Sneak Peek at Easter Offering

Who doesn't love a preview!?! A sneak peek, if you will. In mid-March, you will receive our annual Easter letter with information about this year's Easter offering – but I (Youth Ministries Coordinator Rachel Mosher) get to give you that sneak peek now! St. Mark's is such a marvelous community. When we say we are a church family, we truly are. The love and care our congregation show our young people is absolutely unbelievable, from surpassing our SOUPer Bowl goal, to supporting our young people leading service, to helping at the pumpkin patch. The young people feel your prayers and see your support! This year, our students have the opportunity to attend the quadrennial event, Youth 2023. (Fun fact – I am on the National Design Team for this event!) This event is a fun way for students to gather with other youth from all around the country. At this event, students will have the opportunity to see some incredible Christian concerts, experience worship on a different level than ever before, participate in small-group Bible studies, and join in mission. It is such



a unique, moving experience!

The students here at St. Mark's have felt so loved and you have done such an awesome job growing them in faith and love, an amazing 23 students and three chaperones have signed up to go on this trip to Daytona Beach, FL! Students are committed to paying a portion and raising the remaining \$1200 (per student) for our trip. With so many students signing up, we have our work cut out for us! We have a whole list of fundraisers set up, but we need help! The St. Mark's Missions Committee has so generously agreed to allow us to be the recipients of this year's special Easter Offering, helping us to live out the St. Mark's mission statement of "changing the world through Christ, by caring for all people." Everything these students experience in Florida will travel with them for years to come, and it will give them the experience and tools to spread that wonderful love they have grown up in here.

**St. Mark's will hold another Town Hall meeting at 11:30 a.m. March 5 with more answers about the potential merger with Sanctuary UMC. See related article on page 2.**

# St. Mark's/Sanctuary UMC Merger Task Force Update

The combined St. Mark's and Sanctuary UMC Task Force continues to work together and explore all potential options if the two churches were to merge. It is important to remind everyone that four questions guide our work:

- Will both congregations be better?
- Will both congregations accomplish more?
- Will our community be better served?
- Will God's kingdom be further enlarged?

So, what has taken place in the last month and what is being planned?

The combined Task Force continues to meet regularly and work through the many questions and opportunities that have been identified. Town Hall meetings took place at both churches on Jan. 29 and we want to thank the more than 80 individuals from St. Mark's who attended this meeting. During that meeting, we distributed a Frequently Asked Questions sheet, which addressed some of the basic questions and led to a lot of very good questions and discussion. At the end of the Town Hall, we asked that everyone answer two questions in writing: "Share what about this idea leaves you intrigued and excited?" and "Share what makes you nervous about this or a big concern to address?" All of these many answers are being reviewed and discussed by the Task Force. The same format was used at Sanctuary in its Town Hall meeting with a lot of good input received.

**The next Town Hall meeting at St. Mark's is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 5, in the Sanctuary.** While

## Ukrainian War Anniversary Service

Feb. 24 marks an entire year of conflict in Ukraine. To demarcate this difficult anniversary, we will come together at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26 in the Sanctuary to lament what has happened in the past year. The service will be a time when we are able to vent our frustrations and our sadness together before God.

## Observe Lent at Soul Station

If you want to do something different for Lent this year, we suggest you commit to coming to Soul Station, our Wednesday evening service. Throughout Lent, starting on Wednesday, March 1, we will focus on stories in the Gospel to draw us closer to Jesus and to each other when we share food with one another.

Soul Station meets in person and online. Our time together in person always begins with a meal at 5:30 p.m. Online we meet over Zoom starting at 6 p.m. The joint worship for in-person and the online gathering starts at 6:15 p.m.

If you have questions about Soul Station or would like to get the weekly emails to sign on to Zoom please send an email to Pastor Stuart ([stuart@umcstmarks.org](mailto:stuart@umcstmarks.org)).

the first Town Hall meeting focused on initial communication to and feedback from the congregation; in the March 5 meeting the Task Force will discuss a framework of what the future could look like and over what period of time. The meeting will try to address the most commonly asked questions and concerns from the first Town Hall with as much detail as is known at this time. The Task Force is also planning a combined event on April 2 at St. Mark's. It is important to remember that, regardless of outcome, the first step is to look at the possibilities guided by the four questions above while simultaneously communicating with the respective congregations. This will lead to a vote by each congregation (via a Church Conference) whether to proceed with the merger or to remain as two separate entities.

If the decision by both churches is to merge, and it is approved by the Conference, the challenging work of putting together integration and implementation plans will begin. This is where all of the details will be identified by area and plans put together that will be implemented over the coming years. Change can be difficult and a merger of two churches would be a "big deal" change for both congregations. It is important that we all take the time to stay informed and participate in the process. Plan on attending the next Town Hall meeting on March 5 and if you have questions and feedback along the way you can send them to the Task Force by emailing [merger@umcstmarks.org](mailto:merger@umcstmarks.org).

Blessings,

Pastor Lynn, Rich Howell, Marsha Dean, John Cecilia

## Study Lenten Devotional with Common Grounds

Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. It is a time that many people observe through sacrifice (who's giving up coffee!?), or through adding a discipline. This year, maybe you will consider joining Common Grounds at 7 p.m. Wednesdays for a Zoom Lenten Study devotion!



Common Grounds is a lively group of people on all walks of life in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. You don't already have to have attended our monthly meetings to join in this discussion. Come to one or all of our meetings, whatever fits your schedule!

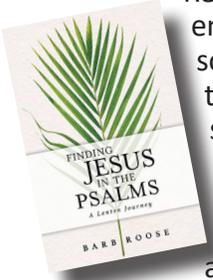
This year, Common Grounds will use the daily Lent devotional, "Unsettling Lent," (available through Amazon or bookshop.org, which supports local bookstores, or contact Rachel Mosher if you need a copy) to guide our discussions. Each Wednesday, starting with Ash Wednesday, we will meet for a short, informal Zoom to discuss the week, our Lenten journey, and the prompts given to us in the book. Contact Rachel, [rachel@umcstmarks.org](mailto:rachel@umcstmarks.org), to sign up and get the Zoom information today!

# Adult Spiritual Growth

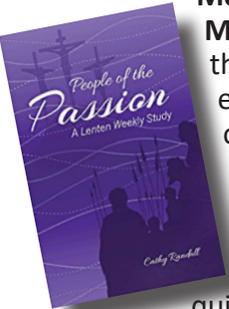
Faith is a journey!

## Lenten Studies, cont. from p. 1

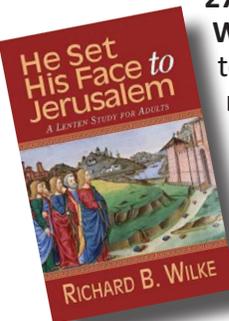
via Zoom. Led by Rick Farnsworth and Carl Harrison. Readers are guided through a meaningful encounter with the Psalms through the season of Lent. Combining an interpretation of the psalms with prayerful engagement, the study moves through the familiar words of Psalm 23 toward the painful cries of Psalm 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.



**“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.



**“He Set His Face to Jerusalem” by Richard B. Wilkie. Seven-week study beginning 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27, at Barnes & Noble Café. Led by Marlyce Wright.** “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51). This study looks at Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem as a model to help us reflect on how we “set our faces” in life. Are we as determined as Christ in our calling to love our neighbor, to make ethical choices each and every day, to confront oppression whenever and wherever it appears? What are our goals as people of faith? Study books may be purchased from your favorite resource.



## 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](mailto: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.

### Adult Confirmation Class

What does it mean when we confirm something? We authenticate it, we validate it, we endorse it. That’s what happens during religious *Confirmation*. We learn about our core beliefs: what has happened in the past, how we got to this point, and then, go deeper into discussion about where we are now. **Join us every Thursday in March from 6 to 7:30 p.m. (room TBD). Led by Pastor Kim Ogle.**

### Adult Spiritual Growth Email 'Hotline' Available

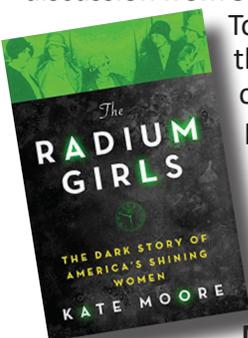
ASG wants to hear from church members about which classes and studies they would like to see offered. ASG also wants to know if there is interest in studies that are currently being considered. Lastly, ASG welcomes feedback about the studies you have attended. A new email address, [asg@umcstmarks.org](mailto:asg@umcstmarks.org), has been established to receive your comments and recommendations. ASG will put this new email hotline to use by asking the following: The study, **“Bible 101: Making Sense of the Bible” by Adam Hamilton**, was scheduled to begin this past January but the response was poor and it was postponed. The committee wants to hear if there is interest in this study and whether there is support for it to be offered again late this spring or summer. Please send your comments to [asg@umcstmarks.org](mailto:asg@umcstmarks.org). If interest remains low, ASG will try to slate the class again this fall or next winter.

**Coming in April “Half Truths – God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn’t Say” by Adam Hamilton.** Five-week study beginning 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, April 10, in Room 20. Led by Jim Nibbelink.

**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.)

## Open Minds Book Group

We invite you to read "The Radium Girls" and to join our discussion from **9-10:30 a.m. Friday, March 24, via Zoom.**



To register for the meeting, you may use the Adult Spiritual Growth registration on the St. Mark's website (see previous page) or contact one of the group leaders, Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban (see church directory).

### "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 began to fall mysteriously ill, the factory owners tried to cover up the shocking cause, and the "shining girls" became 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.

## Please Bring Back Kitchen Items

Have you borrowed an item or two from the church kitchen, or maybe taken something home to clean it, and you haven't brought it back yet? We'd really appreciate if you could! You might remember that our kitchen was wonderfully stocked through the congregation's generosity when the upgrade was completed in 2020. Now it is missing several random items, including but not limited to dish towels, silverware, the "crook" part of some Crockpots, and beverage carafes. We appreciate all good intentions when these items were removed; now we just need them back! Thank you for your help.

## New Bishop Ceremony

The Episcopacy Committee of the Desert Southwest Conference invites you to the Service of Installation of Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut at 11 a.m. Arizona time Saturday, March 11 at St. Matthew UMC, 2540 W. Baseline Road in Mesa, with a reception following the service. The service will be available via livestream and Zoom with closed captioning services. Please register no later than March 1 at <https://dscumc.org/2023-bishop-installation-service-registration/>.

## Chili Cookoff at 12 on the 12th!

Have a favorite chili recipe? Bring it to compete with the others in this tradition at Sanctuary UMC, 7620 N. Hartman Lane. Don't have a recipe? Dust off your judging hat and come taste the delicious recipes the others will bring. 12 noon on March 12. See you then!

## Join the Rainbow Team!

**Come visit!** The St. Mark's Rainbow Fellowship is pleased to welcome everyone in our congregation who would like to join us in conversation. If you identify as LGBTQIA, or as an ally, family member or questioning Methodist, please come to our next meeting at 9 a.m. March 19 in the church library. It's a great joy to share questions and live into our faith as community together. Please feel free to contact Melinda Sims, [rainbow@umcstmarks.org](mailto:rainbow@umcstmarks.org), for more information.



## Check Out St. Mark's Treasure Trove March 25

I (Tricia) don't like to shop, but I love rummaging for treasures at estate sales. I love meandering through the items out on display: piles of treasure that might contain a pair of pants that will fit my ever-growing children, a bread machine just perfect for making banana bread, or a one-of-a-kind work of art.

Are you ready to treasure hunt with me, yet?

On **Saturday, March 25**, the youth will host their annual Rummage Sale of pre-loved, donated treasures in the Fellowship Hall. Here's where you come in: We Need You. We need your time, your talents, your treasures ... and maybe a couple dollars.

While the youth work the Fellowship Hall, we also will have pre-rented 10'x10' spaces in the south parking lot, and we are inviting folks to:

- Sell their own pre-loved treasures
- Donate their pre-loved treasures to the youth
- Sell from their direct sales business
- Display and sell their crafts
- Shop! Spread the word!
- Volunteer on Saturday as an individual, committee, or group:
  - Sign vendors in to their assigned spaces
  - Assist vendors in setup or tear-down of their spaces
  - Sign up for a shift at the Red Umbrella table

If you'd like to sign up to volunteer, explore other opportunities, or get a Vendor Application, contact or visit Tricia Chester in the office ([Tricia@umcstmarks.org](mailto:Tricia@umcstmarks.org)).



## Church & Society: Justice and Mercy

When I was chair of our Nash Neighbors committee years ago, Pastor Paul Caseman asked me to participate in a Pima County Interfaith Council discussion with a state representative who was an



### Church & Society

advocate for public education. I was still new to church and the concept of social justice wasn't something I'd heard much about. To set the stage for our discussion,

Pastor Paul sat me down and told me that one of his great hopes was that our Nash Neighbors program would allow our congregation to get to know "the other" in such a way that in our newfound compassion for this neighbor, we might advocate for systemic changes that might make their paths more equitable to ours. He noted that our missions programs were essential and a great blessing (and a real strength of our church), but that such acts of mercy simply put bandages on problems, rather than fixing the underlying issues that hold others back. Advocacy and voting for politicians who support social justice are important things we can do to go beyond mercy toward justice. The UMC Social Principles address the issue of poverty, saying:

*As a church, we are called to support the poor and challenge the rich. To begin to alleviate poverty, we support such policies as: adequate income maintenance, quality education, decent housing, job training, meaningful employment opportunities, adequate medical and hospital care, humanization and radical revisions of welfare programs, work for peace in conflict areas and efforts to protect creation's integrity.*

When Jesus said there would always be poor among us, he wasn't saying we shouldn't work to remedy the societal structures that specifically resulted in poverty. He wasn't saying throw up your hands and quit trying. Our mission work lifts others up, for sure, but not usually in any permanent way. To make a difference in the lives of others who are hurting, we need to identify the real source of the problem and fix that. Until we have a completely just world, our works of mercy are life-giving and essential. Those of us on the Church & Society committee work toward a day when everyone has the same (equitable) chance at a good, safe and rich life.

*Melinda Sims, Church & Society Committee Chair*

## A Good Friday Play

Directed by Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald

Holy Week is one of our most sacred times of the year. Take the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday by attending the services. Experience Good Friday through a powerful performance of "Have You Seen My Son?" by Jon McCauley Smith. It begins at 6:30 p.m. April 7 in the Sanctuary. Be prepared to be deeply moved as the mothers of Jesus, Judas, James and John, John Mark and Barabbas all speak from their hearts about their son(s) and the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. "Have You Seen My Son?" is narrated by Simeon and Anna, the two who saw Jesus on the Temple grounds as an infant. You will not want to miss this and it is one to invite friends, family members and co-workers to attend.

## United Women in Faith Meeting

St. Mark's United Women in Faith will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 14 in Room 17/18, and via Zoom. Our presentation



United  
Women  
in Faith

will be the annual United Women in Faith Prayer and Self-Denial Program. An offering will be collected for this program. Our meeting also will include

information from the UWF Charter for Racial Justice to celebrate International Women's Day.

All women are invited. If you have any questions or need a ride, contact President Clara Campbell (see church directory).

To receive the Zoom link, contact Secretary Kay Hayworth (see church directory) or leave a note in the UWF mailbox in the church office.

# easter

## Community Event & Egg Hunt

### 9 a.m. – noon Saturday, April 1

In addition to the egg hunt we'll have games, crafts, face painting, a jumping castle and of course the cupcake walk, and back by popular demand, cookie decorating. More information is coming soon. Be on the lookout for a SignUp Genius for volunteers to help with setup/cleanup and with overseeing the games and activities for the kids. We are asking for donations of EMPTY egg cartons (with lids), UNFROSTED sugar cookies (for the kids to decorate) and cupcakes for the cupcake walk. Cookie and cupcake donations can be brought to the church office March 26-31. Egg cartons can be dropped off any time before the event. We hope you will plan to invite your family and friends and join us as a guest, volunteer or both. Questions? Contact Julie at [julie@umcstmarks.org](mailto:julie@umcstmarks.org) or Cathy at [\(call church office for contact info\)](tel:520-293-1234).

## Many Needs

Our Missions Committee has been busy this month! There has been the terrifying earthquake and destruction in Turkey and Syria. We have sent UMCOR \$10,000 from our Change the World Fund to help our sisters and brothers survive. Please continue to pray for them.

Mary Beth Barone, Missions chair

## Market on the Move is March 4



We SOLD OUT in February! What a success! Our next Market on the Move is 8-10 a.m. March 4. Please come in the La Cañada entry, follow the signs, pay \$10 (10% comes back to our church) to receive 60 lbs. of

fresh veggies. Our wonderful volunteers will put them in your truck, then you exit onto Magee. Volunteers need to be ready at 7:30 a.m. For further information, please text Lenna Burnham: (see church directory).

## ICS 'Lotsa Pasta' Continues



The Northwest Food Bank at Interfaith Community Services is still asking for donations of "Lotsa Pasta" through the end of February. A box of pasta noodles and a can or jar of pasta sauce is a great meal for four people. Our generous congregation has already donated hundreds of items and we hope to donate a lot more before the end

of month. Thank you so much! Our ongoing weekly food collections are about to begin their fourth year. We have helped thousands of people in Southern Arizona needing supplemental food assistance. You can donate three ways:

1. Drop off your donations in the courtyard before service on Sunday mornings.
2. Bring your donations between 10-11 a.m. and Tuesday or Saturday to the church's north parking lot.
3. Drop off your donations at the church office during its normal business hours.

GOT CITRUS?? How about your neighbors? Please do not let it go to waste. The food bank is happy to accept donations of fresh, ready-to-eat citrus. The food bank lines are long and the need is great. Please help by donating a couple of non-perishable food items whenever you can. Thanks again.

## Volunteers Assemble Emergency Food Boxes

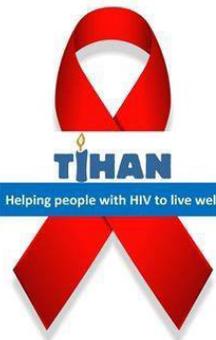
WOW! What a day. Twenty of us at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona on Feb. 10 filled 1,200 emergency food boxes. Each weighed 31 lbs., which equals 37,200 lbs. of food!



These boxes will be distributed to seniors of Southern Arizona. Afterward, some of us went for a fun lunch. Want to be part of the fun in March? Returning March 18, May 19 and June 17.

## TIHAN POZ CAFÉ Returns After COVID Hiatus

The traditional POZ CAFÉ is coming back! After shutting down during the COVID pandemic as a precautionary measure, the monthly social time and luncheon will return this April. Hooray!! Coincidentally, it's the very month that St. Mark's will be one of the three sponsors. So our small-but-mighty committee will be very busy in March collecting toilet paper, facial tissue (Kleenex), hand sanitizer and laundry detergent – smaller sizes. Mary Wald is leading the decorating of 90



bags for CarePackages – Grace Circle Angels do more than cook and bake along with the "angels" in Mary's mobile home court.

What can YOU do? Please bring CarePackage items on the fourth Sunday in March, bring Bingo prizes and raffle prizes and block off time to VOLUNTEER!! We (St. Mark's) will need to pack those bags, set up for the Café, serve the meal and, everyone's favorite, clean up and transport. Sign up at the donation table to volunteer or email Pat at [patriciaawsmall@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaawsmall@gmail.com).

## Youth Exceed SOUPer Bowl Collection Goal



Our youth group collected \$1340.49 for the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona during the SOUPer Bowl of Caring, exceeding their \$1,000 goal. They put their hearts and souls into that wonderful

amount. Kudos to them and to our congregation!

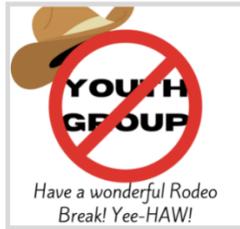
# Youth Ministry

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



## Youth Group Calendar grades 6-12

Feb. 26



March 5

March 12



March 19

March 26



Find St. Mark's Youth Group on Social Media



for information on upcoming events, silly videos and more!

### *SOUPer Job!*

St. Mark's is such a wonderful place to be, worship, and grow! Each year, we have a goal of donating \$1,000 to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. The St. Mark's congregation has always been so supportive, and we always are able to meet that goal (sometimes we combine efforts with the Missions Committee). This year, we had 14 students holding soup pots to raise money for the SOUPer Bowl of Caring. We passed our goal by more than \$300! Thank you, St. Mark's, and thank you youth!



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



NO MEETING MARCH 19  
ENJOY SPRING BREAK!



MARCH 5  
MARIO PARTY NIGHT

MARCH 12  
LENT SERVICE PROJECT & MOVIE

MARCH 26  
SCAVNEGER HUNT

# Youth Ministry

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



## SOUTH DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

### Go And Do Likewise

The Wesley Cup was so fun!!! Sadly, we did not bring home a trophy – this year. Thirty-four students from five churches came together for an epic showdown of Oddball, Hungry Hungry Hippos, and trivia. Next year, the event will be back and bigger! Stay tuned. This year’s theme for the South District is “Go and do likewise,” based on the Good Samaritan Story.



## 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 from around Southern Arizona 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!

## 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 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. With workshops, live worship, and incredible musical talent,

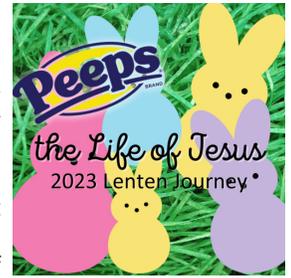


this is an event you do NOT want to miss. We have signed up and are ready to start that fundraising!

## WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP

### Lent in the Wesley House

Last year, you guys made such awesome Stations of the Cross displays with Peeps, I figured we should probably go for round 2! Last year, we used the 14 traditional stations. These focus on the events of Holy Week. But THIS YEAR, I think we need to think bigger. This year, I want us to tell the story of Jesus’ life. His whole life, not just the snapshot. I think last year’s Lent series was my favorite we have done; come see if we can make it even better this year!



### Rock Solid March 5, 3:30 p.m., \$5

Let’s see if we can climb to new heights! Push ourselves to try something new! Meet at the Wesley House and make sure you have a signed waiver for Rock Solid (scan QR code above) before we leave! We will be back by 6 p.m. Scholarships are available.



### High School Outing March 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Bing’s Boba Tea (Orange Grove and La Cholla)  
Students in 9th-12th grades are invited to join Rachel at Bing’s Boba Tea. If you attend our field trip to Rock Solid, you will ride in the van. Otherwise, see you at Bing’s Boba Tea!! You don’t want to miss this one. We will start planning for our Easter Sunrise Service and getting ready to plan with the whole group on March 26.

### Service Sunday Meditation Garden Cleanup March 12

St. Mark’s has a beautiful Meditation Garden and lovely Way of the Cross tucked back in the southwest corner of our campus. But it’s not beautiful by accident! It takes time and hard work to have such an inviting space for visitors to walk, meditate, and experience God. You asked if you could help be a part of that, and March 12, it’s our turn! Join with the other youth as we clean the path and make it be the beautiful space to experience God for others! Don’t forget your forms for service hours!

### Spring Break! March 19

There wasn’t one weekend that would catch every district’s Spring Break this year, but I did my best! March 19 you get the week off, because March 25 you will be busy helping at our Treasure Trove!

### St. Mark’s Treasure Trove March 25

This year’s annual rummage sale to support the youth program will be bigger and better! Come help sell other people’s treasures to earn money for our program! This year, the sale will benefit the Youth 2023 trip. There are jobs for everyone. Have Spring Break that week? Come help Rachel price out the treasures. (This is also a great job for mom and dad to help with!!) Not on Spring Break? That’s OK! Everyone can come help sell these unbelievable treasures. And the best part is, you can shop while you work! WHAT A DEAL!!

### Progressive Game Night & Sunrise Service Planning March 26

Progressive Game Night is a game night like no other! No matter where you start, where you end, and whether or not you win, it’s a fun (and funny!) time! We will also be planning the Easter Sunrise Service, so if you are interested in helping at that service – see you there!!

Happy Birthday!



March 6—*Mosese Hala'ujia*

## Apply Now for Child Care Work

St. Mark's is seeking child care attendants for Sunday mornings and occasional evenings for church activities. This is a paid position. Lead child care attendants must be at least 21 years old, have current or be willing to take CPR and First Aid certification and be able to pass a background check. Additional qualifications include experience in child care or early childhood development, ability to lift 30 lbs. and a friendly, outgoing and nurturing personality. Child care is provided during both worship services on Sundays. The available shifts are 8:15-11:15 a.m. or 9:30-11 a.m. Substitute positions and paid teen child care assistant positions are also available for anyone who has completed sixth grade or higher. Please send a cover letter and resume to [info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org).



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1431 W Magee Road - Tucson, AZ 85704

NOW HIRING

# CHILD CARE ATTENDANT

SUNDAYS 8:15 - 11:15 AM  
MUST BE 21 OR OLDER  
HOURLY PAY - \$13.85

Email your resume and cover letter to  
[info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org)

[www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org)  
(520) 297-2062

### Hey, you! Yes, you!

Are you a crafter, coloring enthusiast, artist or someone who just enjoys spending time in fellowship with others? If so, plan to join us from 3-5 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month for Creative Connections. This fun small group meets in Room 17/18 to craft, paint, color, journal, stamp or anything else you can think of. Each participant can bring their own supplies for a small project or use the church's materials to get creative. This creative time of fellowship is unstructured, so come when you can and we will miss you in the months you are unable to join us. We might discuss Scripture from that week's worship or just catch up with each other. Students in fourth grade and above are welcome to join us from 3-4 p.m. before heading to PreTeens or youth group. Our next meetings are Sundays, Feb. 26 and March 26. Hope you can join us. For more information contact Julie at [julie@umcstmarks.org](mailto:julie@umcstmarks.org).

## Upcoming Concert Events

Music fans, mark your calendars! Our Music Department has two concerts coming up: the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 23, and the Tucson Girls Chorus, 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23.



Celebrating 83 years of music, the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus provides boys an enriched educational experience through the study and performance of choral music. The concert will include a wide variety of choral music from classical to contemporary.

The Tucson Girls Chorus is proud to present a variety of contemporary, folk, and traditional seasonal music. Come hear the harmonious voices of the Tucson Girls Chorus. This concert promises to be another heart-stirring performance.



### 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](mailto:jordan@umcstmarks.org).

## 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 recently 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 Sandi Heilman in church directory](mailto:seeSandiHeilman@umcstmarks.org)) no later than Thursday, March 23. You can also bring your photo to the church office to be scanned.

## March 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." March requests will be posted next week.

### PRAYER CORNER

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

Jared Bowman and family  
Deb Cushman  
Judy Drescher

April DuBoce  
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:*

- **Carllyn Toppin**, who died Jan. 24.
- **Karen Griggs**, who died late Feb. 7 or early Feb. 8.
- **LaVerne Bartzen**, who died late Feb. 9 or early Feb. 10.
- **Jim Ward**, who died Feb. 11. The family is planning for a small, private memorial at a date to be determined.



St. Mark's UMC  
1431 W. Magee Road  
Tucson, AZ 85704  
(520) 297-2062

Email:  
[info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org)  
Website:  
[www.umcstmarks.org](http://www.umcstmarks.org)

**Lead Pastor:**  
Rev. Lynn Bartlow  
**Associate Pastor:**  
Rev. Stuart Salvatierra  
**Christian Formation  
and Outreach Pastor:**  
Kim Ogle

**Sunday Worship**  
In person  
8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Livestreamed  
10 a.m.

[umcstmarks.org/live-worship](http://umcstmarks.org/live-worship)  
YouTube:  
UMC St. Mark's Oro Valley

### Dear Church Family...

I would like to thank all of the people of St. Mark's church for supporting Ukraine in these darkest times. On behalf of me, my grandmother, our immediate family back in Ukraine and all fellow Ukrainians, I am expressing gratitude for your interest in Ukrainian people, how they fight evil, how they live their lives ruined by the war, and Ukrainian culture and traditions, in general.

It was a great pleasure for my grandmother and me to get to know you all, introduce you to Ukrainian national food, and talk about the current situation back in our country. We are also grateful for your financial support to us and our family. Your support, care, and trust mean the world to us!

*With endless gratitude and warmth in our hearts,  
Alona and Luda,  
Ukrainians in Tucson*

Dear Friends,

We believe in a better future for our community, and because of organizations like St. Mark's United Methodist Church, that belief can become a reality.

Thank you for joining us in building a healthy, hunger-free future for our community. Your gift of \$6,300 to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona helps many across Southern Arizona.

Thank you. Your support is changing lives and is building a better future for us all!

*Sincerely,  
Malea Chavez  
Chief Executive Officer*

# Easter Flowers

The Worship Committee will place spring flowers in the Sanctuary and outside in the courtyard on Easter. If you would like to contribute toward these flowers in honor or in memory of someone, please complete this form and put it in an offering plate or return it to the church office. To pay, drop off a check with "Easter Flowers" on the memo line or click/visit here to submit your payment online: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YN82/campaign/C-YZZ7>



The \$17 suggested donation will go toward the flower purchase. Any difference will go into the Flower Fund. The Worship Committee will use this money to purchase bicycles and accessories for refugees working with Tucson Refugee Ministry. We try not to duplicate the Missions Committee's charitable efforts.

If you would like your honorarium or memorial listed in the Easter bulletin, please return this form by Sunday, April 2. Flowers can be picked up after the 10 a.m. service on Easter or in the morning Tuesday, April 11. (The church office is closed Monday, April 10.) The remaining flowers will start being delivered to the homebound on Thursday, April 13.

## EASTER FLOWER FORM

Please PRINT clearly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I am contributing \$\_\_\_\_\_ toward the purchase of Easter flowers for the Sanctuary and outside.

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Bring form to the church office on or before Sunday, April 2.

## A reminder from the Animal Ministry:

Grooming pollen off their fur can lead to poisoning.

Eating less than one leaf or flower can cause kidney failure!

**EASTER LILIES KILL KITTIES**

cathealth.com

**Keep Easter Lilies out of Your Home If You Have Cats!**

<http://www.cathealth.com/toxic-items/easter-lilies-a-holiday-hazard-for-cats>

# St. Mark's United Women in Faith Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner

\$9 donation per meal

Friday, April 14  
4—7 p.m.

Proceeds and donations support missions in Tucson, around Arizona, the USA and the world. You may pre-order your food using the form below, for us to have a preliminary count of meals to prepare.

Place your completed form in the offering plate on Sunday morning or in the UWF mailbox in the church office. You may drive through for a spaghetti meal, even if you don't pre-order.

As you enter the church campus, follow the arrows to the order table. Money will be collected when you pick up your meal(s).



Enjoy a complete meal of spaghetti and meatballs, salad, roll and dessert. A vegetarian option is also available when requested in advance. All meals are prepared and packaged in spill-proof containers by St. Mark's United Women in Faith.

Everything will be ready for you to take home and enjoy, or to take to another family or friend(s).

## Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner Pre-order Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (home) OR \_\_\_\_\_ (cell)

Money will be collected when you pick up your meal(s).

Number of meat meals for pickup: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of vegetarian meals for pickup: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate time for pick up the order: \_\_\_\_\_

## Are you tired of cooking?

St. Mark's United Women in Faith's Drive-Through Spaghetti dinner will take place 4-7 p.m. Friday, April 14. Dinner will be a meal of spaghetti and meatballs, salad, roll and cookies. A vegetarian option will be available. You can just drive into the south parking lot, pay for your meals and pick them up in the loading zone without leaving your car. A donation of \$9 per meal will be used to support missions in Tucson and around the world.

Your meal(s) can be pre-ordered on the link below or using the above form. Forms also will be available in the church office to be put in the UWF mailbox; at a courtyard table on Sunday, April 2; in the information rack in the narthex; by calling the church office; or just come to the south parking lot on April 14 and order and pick up your meal!

Order link: <https://tinyurl.com/SpaghettiApril2023>

Address Service Requested

## Reflections

### Blessings

I have a note on my desk, usually buried beneath a pile, that says, "Fewer complaints, more gratitude." I wrote it as the new year began, conscious that I am very good at naming the struggles that I face and not paying attention to the blessings. I have to admit, while I'm more conscious of it, my year hasn't seen a lot of improvement. I still see the things I forget to do, the staff's mistakes, the opportunities we miss as a church. I find myself naming what is wrong and glossing over what is right.

There's a place for the prophetic voice in our world today, naming the things that are wrong and calling the church to repentance and to change our ways. The Biblical prophets model that for us: Jeremiah who wept for the people, Ezekiel who warned of consequences of bad behavior, Amos who called out the disparity between rich and poor. There's a time and place for prophetic voices today, in the midst of all that is going wrong in the world.

But to be honest, most of the time I am not speaking prophetically. Instead, I am simply complaining. Someone asked me Wednesday how I was doing, and I launched into how busy and overwhelmed I was. I didn't share the reason for my overwhelm—a good friend from Illinois surprised me with a visit after more than a decade, and I spent Monday on the couch visiting instead of working. I didn't share the good stuff—several powerful and meaningful visits with church members on Tuesday instead of reading emails. I didn't share the life-giving things—deep, wrestling conversation with a committee on Wednesday that had great outcomes. Instead, I saw the things that were missed and I complained.

I've seen this tendency to complain in the wider church too. As we talked about a potential merger with a struggling church, I heard complaining that our pews aren't full anymore, that people hadn't come back from the pandemic. I heard lament that people are miss-

ing, that we upset them or forgot them or neglected them. I heard a question of whether we could sustain more when we aren't as big as we once were. As we talk about how to do ministry in a post-pandemic world, I have heard complaints about all that we have lost.

While St. Mark's has indeed lost much in the pandemic, I think we have strengths and blessings that we would do well to celebrate. Fewer complaints, more gratitude. Let's name how we are blessed; the strengths that we share with the world. I'll start... We just had 10 people join the church, with a list of more than 50 more who will be invited to our next new member class. We had at least 17 who volunteered Feb. 10 at the Food Bank. We had to turn away volunteers for a recent Market On The Move morning. (Volunteers! Not the people who were coming to receive the food, the people who made it happen!) We have a Lenten study every day of the week during Lent, with both leaders and students making it happen. (There's room for more if you want to choose a study!) Our choirs offer strong musical leadership each week and we have musicians who love to play who offer their gifts. Soul Station is growing with people who attend online and in person. Our prayer team meets and prays for the needs of the church. Our committees do good work and usually accomplish it with a smile. The financial health of the church is good. (it could always be better but every church could use more money wisely!) Our youth and children's ministries have grown over the last year with participants, and we have new volunteers as well. The list could go on and on. We are blessed. We are healthy. We have much to celebrate.

Your turn: What do you see at St. Mark's that we can celebrate? I invite you this Lenten season to give up complaining. Give up the pessimism of the world and look for where God is at work around us and among us right now. Pay attention to the opportunities God has given us to make a difference. After all, we will only change the world through Christ when we choose to make a difference where we are.