

Messenger

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

Vol. 63 No. 4
April 2023

St. Mark's
United Methodist



Join us for Holy Week & Easter!

Palm & Passion Sunday, April 2

- **8:30 and 10 a.m.:** Hosanna in the highest! Palm fronds, a cantata featuring both choirs, and Holy Communion.
- **11:30 a.m.:** As we celebrate Palm Sunday, we invite you to come eat a hot dog and meet some new people at a potluck cookout on our patio. We will join around tables with Sanctuary UMC members, have conversation about the potential merger, get more information from an updated "Frequently Asked Questions" document, and be truly Methodist as we eat! Bring a side to share and join us!

Maundy (Holy) Thursday, April 6

"Maundy Thursday" is the day in the last week of Jesus' life on which he has the Last Supper with his disciples and washes their feet. Followers of Jesus all over the world will meet on this day to celebrate the generous love of Christ and remember his call to us to serve others in love. This day inspires our hearts with gratitude and refreshes our mission to our community. Would you please join us?

We are partnering with our friends at Sanctuary UMC, and together we will host two services, at different times and

locations:

- **Noon:** A simple midday worship time at Sanctuary UMC, 7620 N. Hartman Lane, Suite 100.
- **6:30 p.m.:** A full traditional service at St. Mark's UMC. Additionally, there will be a guided tour of the Stations of the Cross in the Meditation Gardens at 5 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7

- **5 p.m.:** Guided tour of the Stations of the Cross in the Meditation Gardens.
- **6:30 p.m.:** A powerful play, "Have You Seen My Son?" by Jon McCauley Smith. 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 sons and the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. You won't want to miss this!

Holy Saturday, April 8

1-2 p.m.: Harp in the Garden performance in Meditation Gardens

Easter Sunday, April 9

- **6:15 a.m.:** Come watch the sun rise as the youth lead the annual Sunrise Service outside on the labyrinth.
- **8:30 and 10 a.m.:** Traditional services in the Sanctuary. Between services, be sure to enjoy a pancake breakfast prepared by the youth as a fundraiser for their summer Sierra Service Project mission trip!

All week long, pamphlets will be available at the Meditation Gardens for self-guided tours.

Monday, April 10

The church office will be CLOSED in observance of the Easter holiday.

Save the Date for Merger Vote

We invite you to a special Church Conference for our final conversation and official vote on the merger with Sanctuary United Methodist Church. As you know, our church leadership has been exploring merging with or "adopting" Sanctuary, creating the multi-site campus that St. Mark's began exploring in 2019. This merger would create one legal and official United Methodist Church presence that would offer ministry in northwest Tucson.

This Church Conference vote will take place at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, April 30, in our worship space here at St. Mark's (Sanctuary UMC will have its own later in the afternoon). The conference will be available in person or

via Zoom. Details of the vote and of how to connect will be sent out in the middle of April via email, with copies available on the Sundays before the vote.

Please note that all members of St. Mark's UMC are eligible to vote, per the Book of Discipline rules. Anyone who attends the meeting has a voice in the conversation.

Mark your calendar for April 30 and plan to participate in this important vote!



Renovation Team Update

The St. Mark's Renovation Team has made good progress on some of the behind-the-scenes projects that will help complete future actions.

1. The Visitor Assimilation plan is finished. A Connection Team has been trained in the process that will help the first-time visitor to become a member of St Mark's.
2. The Shepherd Project has located 130 people who weren't in our attendance records.
3. Five special-interest groups have formed. Appropriate staff have been identified to support and help the leaders of these groups over the next couple of months.
4. Staff has taken over cleaning up the St. Mark's database.
5. The Renovation Prayer Team is in service. There are four members, with a fifth likely to join in late April or early May.

Completion of these projects has helped us to begin work on the "Next List."

1. We are trying to identify all volunteer positions. So far, we have found 79 volunteer jobs. Many of those jobs require more than one volunteer (committees for example). We need several hundred volunteers.
2. We are working on a system to better connect with online viewers. A plan is being developed to assess our online practices and presence. Also, it will address possible new strategies to engage and assimilate those who choose online worship.
3. Finally, a project has begun to inventory IT assets, including software. We will also identify what is working well and what is not. This will help evaluate changes needed to better support St. Mark's UMC's goals.

If you have any comments or questions, email us at renovatiionteam@umcstmarks.org.

Your Renovation Team:

*Sarah Dimond
Diane Hiratsuka
Linda Martino*

*Maryann Nuckolls
Bill Zermuehlen*

easter

Community Event & Egg Hunt

9 a.m. – noon Saturday, April 1

Bring your family and friends and hippity hop on over to the St. Mark's Community Easter Event and Egg Hunt on Saturday April 1st. This FREE, FAMILY FUN event begins at 9 a.m. on the west patio with games, prizes (for everyone), a craft room, cookie decorating, a photo booth, jumping castle and obstacle course. There will also be a cupcake walk and of course Easter egg hunts. Be sure to check in at the hospitality table and enter the Lamb Cake raffle and pick up extra goodies and a bag to carry all your prizes and eggs in! Questions? Contact Julie at julie@umcstmarks.org or Cathy Harris-Herchenroeder at (contact church office for contact info).

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

In January we welcomed 10 new members into our congregation! Make sure to introduce yourself and help them feel at home. Our next Exploring Membership Class is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 22, with new members joining the next day. The time begins with a short walking tour, so if you prefer to skip that, you can come at 9:30. If you have any questions or to RSVP, please email tricia@umcstmarks.org.



Recipients Young or Grown Love St. Mark's Quilts

The St. Mark's Quilters meet every Thursday morning to make lap-sized quilts that we donate to different organizations in Tucson. We thank all who have donated the fabrics that we use to make these quilts. Recently, the quilts went to children at San Fernando women at The Haven.

On the border 80 miles from Tucson in Sasabe, AZ, with a population of 41, is the San Fernando School District. The Tucson Cyber Lions Club visited the school March 8 and did vision screening. This time they brought a very special gift for every child in the school: a quilt donated by the the St. Mark's UMC Quilters. The children were overjoyed to receive their quilts.

The Haven is a residential and outpatient substance abuse program for women. We have donated quilts to them in the past but we recently visited there and delivered 55 quilts for the residents.



Elementary School and

Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

Spring Studies Begin This Month

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

Wednesday Morning Study Group

"Reading the Old Testament Through Jewish Eyes" by Rabbi Evan Moffic. 10-11:30 a.m. in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Six weeks beginning April 12. Led by Marcia Rostad. Moffic explores the Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, and highlights points of interest to Christians. He describes the roles of the Torah in Jewish worship and practice and explores the key themes of each book guided by the wisdom of Jewish interpreters through the centuries. Join this study of the Torah and find rich new insights into the biblical story. Discover how the Torah can be a source of wisdom, truth, and transformation in your life. Please register to secure the Zoom connection link. Books available from your favorite resources but are not essential. Drop-ins are welcome! *This will be the last study for this group until it resumes in September.*

Adult Sunday School



"Bible Stories for Grown-Ups – Reading Scripture with New Eyes" by Josh Scott. 9:30-11 a.m. for six weeks beginning April 16 in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Led by Rick Farnsworth and Carl Harrison. Scott looks at familiar Bible stories and reveals new details and interpretations for an adult audience. This Bible study will consider stories many read as children including Noah's

ark, the binding of Isaac, Jonah and the big fish, Jesus and Zacchaeus, Jesus healing a blind man, and the parable of the talents. Scott reimagines these stories and opens new visions for readers to understand well-known pieces of Scripture in our current cultural environment. Please register to secure the Zoom connection link. Books available from your favorite resources but are not essential. Drop-ins are welcome!

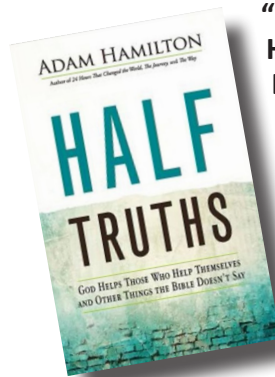
The Gospel of John. 11:15 a.m. in Room 17/18. Led by Brenda Hunter and Kelly Deyoe. The class reads this book of the Bible, chapter by chapter, to reflect on its meaning then and now. This class invites not only regular attendees but anyone who can only occasionally attend. Bring your Bible or there are Bibles in the classroom.

Pondering the Word of God *new!*

1-2:30 p.m. beginning Tuesday, April 11, in Room 20. Second and fourth Tuesdays each month. Led by Kaki Johnson. ASG is excited to announce a new opportunity to gather and personally share in the word of God. This is not a class that follows a specific curriculum but rather, it is a self-guided, shared experience of how the word of God speaks individually to us. When we gather together and share these experiences, we grow a deeper, more personal connection to God and to each other.

This will be an ongoing group that will decide together the Bible passages to reflect upon and will share the responsibility for prayers and devotions. At its inaugural meeting April 11, the group will focus on the word from John 20 and 21. Bring your Bible or use one of the readily available Bibles in the room. Kaki is experienced in leading spiritual reflection activities. Registration is not necessary, but it is helpful if you pre-register online or on the ASG bulletin board in the courtyard.

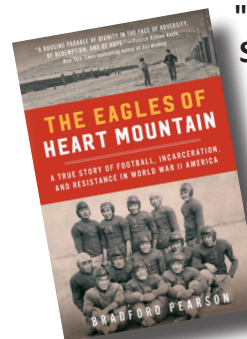
New Book Study *new!*



"Half Truths – God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say" by Adam Hamilton. Five-week study 6:30-8 p.m. beginning Monday, April 10, in Room 20. Led by Jim Nibbelink. There are simple phrases that sound Christian and are something one *might* find in the Bible. These phrases may capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways. This

study will compare common Christian clichés with the wisdom found in Scripture. Some phrases we will examine include "Everything happens for a reason," "God helps those who help themselves," and "God won't give you more than you can handle." Please pre-register but drop-in attendees are welcome at any time. Books may be obtained from your favorite resource. A few books are available for loan and can be obtained from the ASG mailbox in the church office, but books are not required for this study.

Open Minds Book Group



"The Eagles of Heart Mountain: A True Story of Football, Incarceration, and Resistance in WWII America" by Bradford Pearson. 9-10:30 a.m. Friday, April 21 via Zoom. Led by Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban. In summer 1942, over 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

Continued on next page

Open Minds Book Group continued

is, until the fall of 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, but also about a group of people wronged by their government who stand up to say, “Enough.”

BONUS study added for May!

"Eager to Love: The Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi" by Richard Rohr. 9-10:30 a.m. Friday, May 26, via Zoom. St. Francis found a way to follow Jesus that disregarded power and privilege and held fast to the narrow path of the Gospel. Drawing upon Scripture, psychological principles, and literary sources, Franciscan Rohr helps us look beyond the common image of the saint to remind us of the long tradition founded on his life-changing, whole-hearted acceptance of the teachings of Jesus. In this book, Rohr teaches us how to embrace our one and only life, learn to love the life we have, and do our part to make the world a better place for others.

United Women in Faith Meeting

St. Mark's United Women in Faith will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 11, in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Refreshments begin at 9:30. Our speaker will be Martha Lundgren, UMC deaconess. Martha became a deaconess a few years ago, when she was a member at St. Mark's.

She moved to the Chicago area a year or so ago but still has a connection to our UWF members. Martha's topic is Funeral Poverty as a Justice Issue. All women are invited. If you have questions, contact President Clara Campbell (see church directory). To receive Zoom connection information, contact Secretary Kay Hayworth (see church directory).

March Attendance

Our average Sunday attendance as of March 22 is 351 in person and 330 households online.

Please take the time to sign in, whether you are worshipping online or in person.

On the Sunday Tools page under “Resources” on our website, you can register your attendance, give online, submit prayer requests, and view our weekly announcements. If you are with us in person in the Sanctuary you have the Sunday Tools card in your pew. Scan the QR code and please register your attendance. Also when you come into the narthex there are iPads you can use to sign in. If you're more comfortable writing, there are colored attendance sheets in the pews; please legibly record your attendance. As part of our congregational care, it's very important for us to know who is with us each week, whether you're a member, occasional attender or a visitor, so please take just a moment to sign in.

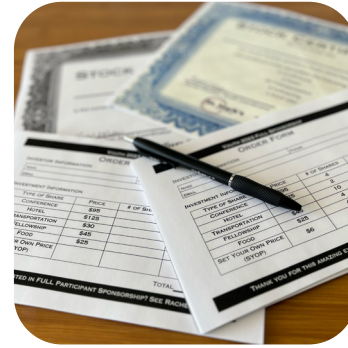
Picnic with Rainbow Fellowship

By now I hope all of you know the Rainbow Fellowship belongs to ALL of us: LGBTQIA, allies, families and everyone else! To get to know each other better, our April meeting will be a picnic gathering at noon Saturday, April 15 under the ramada at Ann Day Park (Mona Lisa, between Ina and Magee). This will be a “bring your own lunch” picnic. We will NOT be meeting on campus in April. All are welcome to join us as we take advantage of a glorious Tucson spring afternoon, sharing stories and table fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Melinda Sims at rainbow@umcstmarks.org.



Buy 'Stock' in Youth 2023!

Thank you so much for your incredible support of our youth and their exciting summer ahead! Have you checked out the thermometer and pie chart in the patio, to see how we are steadily inching our way up to our fundraising goals? It's so fun to watch that red line move up and up.



Our envelope campaign was a fun and interactive way for you to support our youth, and we thank everyone who contributed! Unfortunately, our first week of the campaign was a surprise snowy and windy day, so we missed a lot of our friends looking for a way to help. But don't worry – we are at it again! On April 23 and 30, the Youth 2023 participants will be on the patio again, selling "stock" in our awesome trip.

If you have traveled with a group, you know that there are many different aspects of the trip that need funding; here is your chance to get specific on how you would like to support us! There will be various types of stocks available, and you can buy as many or as few as you would like! We will have conference shares, hotel, transportation, fellowship and food shares as well as SYOP, or Set Your Own Price shares. Simply fill out an order form and receive a stock certificate in return. Upon our return from Florida, we will organize a "shareholders picnic" for anyone who has supported our trip. At this picnic, you will get to see pictures and hear stories about our amazing time in Florida.

Full participant sponsorship is also available.

April is Arab American Heritage Month

The Arab world is made up of 22 countries and spans from North Africa to West Asia, giving way to diversity in faith, race, and dialects. Arab immigration to the U.S. has existed for more than 100



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&
Society*

years, and more than 80% of Arab Americans were born in the U.S. The three largest religious groups in the Arab world are Christianity, Islam and Judaism. In

the U.S., 63% of Arab Americans are Christian and 24% are Muslim. To learn more, visit the Arab America Foundation's Heritage Month web page. <https://arabamericafoundation.org/national-arab-american-heritage-month>

We also invite you to visit the St. Mark's UMC Racial Equity website and learn more about Arab American history and systemic racism through the available readings, videos, podcasts and book recommendations. <https://umcstmarks.org/racial-equity/racial-equity-resources>
Submitted by Racial Equity Advocates

Cross-Border Tour Report

On Feb. 15, seven St. Mark's members joined nine others from the South District for a daylong cross-border tour to Nogales, Mexico. This tour, led by former St. Mark's pastor Jerry Haas is part of the activity of the Border Community Alliance. The BCA cross-border tour educates and lets participants see firsthand what is happening across the border. BCA focuses on social investment (not charity) helping our Sonoran neighbors with their local-led initiatives to build stronger communities and have positive international relations.

Nogales, Mexico is a growing city with U.S. and European companies building about 100 assembly plants there. Many Mexicans have migrated from the south to Nogales, Sonora for employment opportunities.

The tour included a Mexican Methodist Church, a long-term migrant shelter, a short-term migrant shelter, an organization customizing equipment for disabled people, a new housing community built by the assembly plant companies for workers, and a visit with the U.S. Consul General who is responsible for most of the Arizona border.

The long-term shelter has school for the kids and a number of vocational training opportunities for the adults. It has a garden, and organizers hope to open a tortillería. For the most part it was Central Americans and Venezuelans waiting in the shelters.

We toured ARSOBO, a nonprofit that assembles medical devices customized by disabled workers who also benefit

Finance Committee Update

The finance report for the end of February 2023 is as follows:

Balance Sheet Report:

- The checking balance totaled \$411,537 at the end of the month.
- Unrestricted funds totaled \$192,468.
- The Endowment Fund increased \$8,000 and now stands at \$708,208.
- The Endowment Fund is down about 15% from last year largely due to market changes.
- The Youth 2023 Fund was in arrears at (\$3,706). This has improved from a negative balance of (\$10,655) in January. This negative balance is due to spending for their planned trips in 2023. The youth envelope fund should bring this fund back into the black in March.

Treasurers Report:

- February income totaled \$74,816 and expenses of \$87,277 resulted in a \$12,461 monthly deficit. The year-to-date deficit is \$5,660. This compares favorably to the budgeted deficit of \$20,804.
- At the same point last year there was a surplus of \$39,423. April has five Sundays including Easter; we hope that will help make up some of the shortfall.
- Expenses are up from last year at this time partially because we are fully staffed, and Ministry Architects has received two payments.
- Administration's budget covering the copier lease, paper, office supplies and advertising is up by \$2,342.
- The conference grant for part of Kim's salary is also depleted.

Concerns:

At the end of February last year, giving amounted to \$198,751. This year it amounted to \$181,591, a deficit of \$17,160. This may be due to illnesses or other factors. We will continue to monitor this over the next several months.

from the products. Co-founded by a former NASA engineer, ARSOBO's three products are: Rough Rider all-terrain wheelchairs built to withstand the uneven sidewalks of the city and the rough terrain of rural Mexico; prosthetics and orthotics; and hearing testing and hearing aids for both adults and children. Audiologists from the University of Arizona conduct the hearing testing monthly. ARSOBO is quite resourceful in getting the materials it needs and therefore minimizing the cost of each product. It is a great example of cross-border sharing to get the job done.

If you are interested in learning more or want to join a future cross-border tour, contact Jerry Haas, jndhaas@gmail.com, or visit the BCA website at Border Community Alliance - Church and Society Committee

Missions Activity Roundup

The Missions Committee continues to be busy. Various groups have done tremendous work! Market on the Move has SOLD OUT in both February and March (by 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m., respectively). Both of those distributed food to 150 cars! They have requested additional food for April. On March 18, volunteers at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona packed more than 1,600 emergency food boxes.

St. Mark's volunteers for Interfaith Community Services collected 1,316 boxes of pasta and cans of tomato sauce, enough to feed 2,600 people. The Casas church won the "Lotsa Pasta" collection effort with more than 2,800 pasta items collected. The ICS Food Bank met its goal of 10,000 packages of pasta and sauce.

We have distributed funds to Youth on their Own to maximize our donations since they had a matching donation in March.

The Inn continues to serve immigrants seeking asylum, seeking safety for their families so their children can flourish. The temporary shelter is usually an overnight during which the families receive shelter, food, showers, clean clothing, and assistance with making transportation connections for the final leg of their journey. The Inn has been active since December of 2016, and St. Mark's had been actively involved from the start – and remains committed.

Mary Beth Barone, Missions chair

Market on the Move is April 1



Market on the Move is 8-10 a.m. this Saturday, April 1, no fooling! Still 60 lbs. for only \$10. Please come in the La Cañada entry, follow the signs, pay. Our wonderful volunteers will put the veggies in your trunk, then you exit onto Magee. Volunteers should arrive by 7:30. We will wear our pretty red volunteer shirts with pride. Contact Lenna Burnham for more info: (see church directory)

Volunteers Assemble Emergency Food Boxes

Want to be part of the fun? We are returning April 21, May 19 and June 17. Contact KJ Naae for details.



3 Years, 65K lbs. of food for ICS

When the COVID pandemic began in March 2020, millions of people lost their jobs and some of the longest lines ever seen developed at food banks across our country. The leadership team at St. Mark's immediately recognized the increased need, and we began an ongoing food collection in support of the Northwest Food Bank at Interfaith Community Services, where they too were seeing record numbers of clients seeking additional food assistance. Here we are, three years later. COVID is still with us, inflation has driven grocery prices up considerably, donations to food banks have declined, and the number of people still seeking additional help from our food banks remains high.

BUT St. Mark's remains consistent in collecting food twice a week. We have collected almost 65,000 lbs. of food these last three years! That is an amazing blessing that has helped to provide tens of thousands of additional meals to our friends in Southern Arizona. ICS and its clients are very grateful. Thank you so much for your help! You can continue to support this wonderful ministry by bringing your non-perishable food donations between 10-11 a.m. any Tuesday or Saturday to the church's north parking lot, or if it is more convenient, you can drop them off at the church office during its business hours.

In April our focus is boxed cereal, but all non-perishable food donations are welcome.



Youth Ministry

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

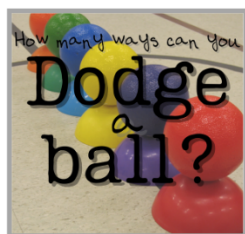


Youth Group Calendar grades 6-12



April 2

April 9



April 16

April 23



April 30

Find St. Mark's Youth Group on Social Media



for information on upcoming events, silly videos and more!

Thank You!

St. Mark's Youth says THANK YOU to the entire congregation for all of your help on our super successful envelope campaign! Have you seen the thermometer on our bulletin board in the courtyard!? It's so fun getting to add those red stickers each week. Many congregation members have reached out since the crazy weather our first week (Seriously!? Snow!?) and want to know if there are more opportunities to support our trip! Good news! On April 23 and 30, look in the courtyard for our St. Mark's Stockbrokers. They will have order forms for you to "invest" in our upcoming Youth 2023 trip. Rachel will have your stock certificates right there on the patio for you!

In August we will host a shareholders' picnic, inviting everyone who invests in our trip for a delicious lunch and to see and hear the highlights from our trip.

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



ALL CHURCH EVENT - APRIL 2
PALM SUNDAY PICNIC AFTER CHURCH!
NO EVENING MEETING



APRIL 16
JUST DANCE MARATHON



APRIL 23
BOARD GAME NIGHT



APRIL 30
SUNDAE FUN DAY

Youth Ministry

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



LENT IN THE WESLEY HOUSE

Last year, we made the Stations of the Cross completely out of Peeps, and it was awesome. You guys are so creative and fun! We wanted to do that again, but I mean – we already DID it right!? So THIS year, we are in the middle of our "Peeps: The Life of Jesus" series and you do not disappoint! Thank you for all of your creativity, input, and awesome ideas!



MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION

"At the Well," 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. May 31

Middle School Mission in the South District 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! This year, Middle School Mission will be a one-day mission experience starting and ending here at St. Mark's. Sign-ups will be published soon!



SERVICE SUNDAY

April 23 at PACC (tentative)

Another opportunity for service hours is coming up! Rachel is arranging (hopefully!) for us to read to dogs at Pima Animal Care Center. It is so fun! Meet at the Wesley House at 4 p.m., and feel free to bring a book. It can be anything – even a math book. Those sweet dogs don't care! Check social media as we get closer! Don't worry, if PACC doesn't work out, we will have another opportunity! Don't need service hours for school/clubs? No worries – these meetings are also a great way for us to love our neighbors and show Tucson how awesome we are.

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT



Woohoo! We got our dates, and we can start planning! Our work week in Tsale, 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 2023

July 23-28, 6th-12th grade
Orlando and Daytona Beach, Florida

We have another fun fundraiser coming up! After our rummage sale, pancake breakfast, and fantastic envelope campaign – next up is a stock sale! Meet Rachel April 23 and 30 after services on the patio to sell shares of stock in our upcoming trip! Bonus points if you dress like a stockbroker (think suit and tie here).



WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP

Picnic Time April 2, 11:30 a.m. (right after Sunday School)

On Palm Sunday, we are having a BIG picnic for the members of both St. Mark's and Sanctuary UMCs, right here on campus. Stick around after Sunday School for some delicious grub AND the youth will be running yard games. For sure we will have cornhole (thanks to Judy B. for the awesome cornhole set she won!), Ladder Ball, Skee Ball, Can Jam, and more! Come have fun and encourage others to, as well.

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday (April 6 and 7, 6:30 p.m.)

Does it ever feel like we just jump from Palm Sunday, waving branches, straight to the Easter Hallelujahs? In between those two Sundays, a LOT happens. Confirmants are required to attend (and help at) both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, but all are welcome! See you there!

Happy Easter April 9, 6 a.m. to noon

Easter is a delightful time here at St. Mark's! Our youth are leading a beautiful Sunrise Service on the Labyrinth, full of praise, worship, youth messages, and Communion. Every youth is encouraged to talk to Rachel and find a space where they are willing to participate! Following all services, the youth sell delicious pancakes as a fundraiser for our mission trips, Youth 2023, and our weekly youth program. Sign up to help today via our link tree.

How Many Ways Can YOU Dodge a Ball? April 16, 4-6 p.m.

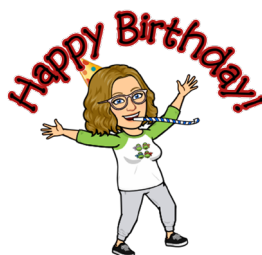
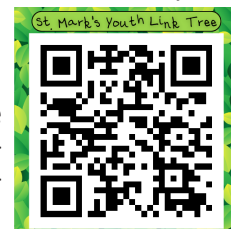
It has been WAY too long since we have had some serious dodgeball time, hasn't it!? April 16 is going to be an amazing day of dodgeball. But not just normal old boring dodgeball; I mean, that will happen. But don't you worry – there will be many, many types of dodgeball! Bring a friend! The more people who come, the more fun these games will be!

Nailed It! April 30, 4-6 p.m.

Ever watch those shows on TV where they make cake decorating, painting, and more look so easy and fun!? Ever tried it yourself?? Rachel has. The result is always hilarious. Join with youth group for our first-ever St. Mark's Nailed It and see what kind of amazing creations we can come up with!!

Fifth Sunday Church Family Worship April 30, 10-11 a.m.

Most months have only four Sundays in them, but there are five lucky months each year with a fifth Sunday! Woohoo! On these Sundays, here at St. Mark's, we have Church Family Worship, and it is awesome. Instead of splitting everyone up all over campus, we all worship together in the Sanctuary. This year, we will have a space sectioned off in the front for both children and youth, if you want to sit together! It should be a lot of fun! See you there!



April 6—**Jonathan Niemiec**

April 13—**Ian Parkinson**

April 14—**Gabby Morrison**

April 20—**Maddie Martin**

April 22—**Grace Carsten**

April 24—**Ray Trejo**

April 26—**Felicity Niemiec**

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.



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

www.umcstmarks.org
(520) 297-2062



Upcoming Concert Events

Music fans, mark your calendars! Our Music Department has two concerts coming up: the Tucson Girls Chorus, 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23, and the Old Pueblo Brass Band, 3 p.m. Sunday, April 30.

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.



The **Old Pueblo Brass Band**, Tucson's own British-style brass band, will entertain you with a varied program of traditional British tunes, light classical, marches, and contemporary arrangements. Come experience music in the unique British brass band style

Upcoming Meet-Ups

Enjoy walking? Want get to know others better in the St. Mark's community? Come walk with us. Walking groups forming:

The first **St. Mark's Walking Group** meets at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 4, and 8 a.m. Thursday, April 20, in the church's parking lot. We walk the Loop, neighborhoods, and parks. Bring water, layered clothing, a hat, and sunscreen. Plan 90 minutes to walk 3-4 miles. For more information, contact Cheri Schwartz (see church directory).

A new walking group, the "**Third Monday Walking Group**," will meet at 7:30 a.m. April 17 in the church's north parking lot and drive/carpool to Catalina State Park. Dave and Patty Brown will lead the group on a walk along paved roads through the park. Walk time is about 90 minutes. On May 15 the walkers will meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Oro Valley Marketplace (in the In and Out Burger parking lot) and walk for about 90 minutes from there. Please bring water, sunglasses, and a hat on walks. Contact Dave Brown for more information at (email in church directory).

Attention Veterans! Join us for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Friday, April 28, at Coco's Bakery and Restaurant, 7250 N. Oracle Road. Come join in fellowship with others in the St. Mark's community who have served. We meet the fourth Friday of every month.



PRAYER CORNER

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

*Jared Bowman and family
Deb Cushman
Judy Drescher*

*April DuBoce
Keith and Mary Ann Glazier
Barb Osar*

*Mary Sanders
Carol Underwood
Jackie Vickers*

CONDOLENCES

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

- **Brian Moore**, who died Feb. 20. A celebration of life is scheduled for 10 a.m. March 31 in the Sanctuary. Please keep Jane and their family in your prayers.
- **Carol Holdeman**, who died Feb. 28. A celebration of life will take place April 29. Please keep Richard and their family in your prayers.
- **Cynthia Raynor**, who died early the morning of March 8, after an abrupt decline in her health. Her memorial service was held in March.
- **Marion Wood**, who died late the night of March 21. A memorial service will take place on a future date at Oracle Union Church, the church she and her husband, Bill, attended for many years before they moved to Mountain View across the street from St. Mark's.
- **Newt Milton**, who died early March 27. Thank you for your prayers for Kim and the Milton family.



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

Email:
info@umcstmarks.org
Website:
www.umcstmarks.org

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

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

Livestreamed
10 a.m.
umcstmarks.org/live-worship
YouTube:
UMC St. Mark's Oro Valley

Dear Church Family...

Thanks to my faith community who sent cards, called and most of all prayed for me when I had my shoulder surgery. The support and care from you was such a blessing. Our Lord had His healing hands on me and recovery has gone really well.

*Blessings and Love,
Lois Boydston*

I am more than happy to share some of the great news with you.
I have received acceptance letters from all of the schools that I applied for, including the University of Arizona.
I have until April 15 to make a decision.
I just wanted to let you all know that I feel like your prayers have been answered in the most wonderful ways.
Please let everyone else know and express my warmest appreciation.

*Alona Yurievna Kladieva
Ukrainian in Tucson*

All of us at Tucson Refugee Ministry would like to thank the many donors from your congregation who contributed to our ministry. We have seen exponential growth this past year and without the generous contributions from so many caring people, our ministry would not be possible. We are grateful for the kind hearts and offerings that help educate and connect so many refugee families.

*Blessings,
The Tucson Refugee Ministry Team*

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.

SERVICE MAY SUNDAY 7!



On May 7, normal worship will be canceled as we come together at 9 a.m. for a day of service in our community. Pastor Lynn will pray over us and set our minds and hearts. Prior to this date, we will each have opportunity to sign up for a work team of our choosing. Child care will be available. We go to our respective projects, returning between noon and 12:15 p.m. for a light lunch, sharing our experiences, and rejoicing in our ability to serve. We will have attended church, served our community, enjoyed fellowship with others, and we will have done something significant to better the lives of others.

At the end, members will be invited to pick up filled manna bags (bottle of water, socks, granola bars, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.), to keep in your car for a person in need. Starting Palm Sunday, sign-up opportunities will be available in the courtyard and online.



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 are 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>

Reflections

Giving and Sharing

I'm part of a "Buy Nothing" group on Facebook. That's right, one more reason to waste time on Facebook! This group believes that we can borrow and give away things rather than buying something. Keep things out of the landfill while also helping one another out.

Since I joined, I've received a bag of clothes and given away three bags of clothes. I gave away a propane tank our home's previous owner left (I really don't need two and someone was looking for one). I gave away brand-new flannel sheets for a bed we don't have, picture frames from our wedding we never used, pots we don't use, and some Halloween costumes our kids grew out of. I received some canning jars (I had quarts but needed three more pints for those green beans I pickled!), a styrofoam cooler, some ice packs, and a brand-new pair of Converse.

Sometimes I think of this group as the modern-day, social-media version of the cousins you would pass your clothes on to. Or, it's the modern-day version of the neighbor you would borrow a cup of flour from. Did you have that neighbor? Maybe you're blessed to still have that. We used to go next door in Flagstaff and borrow from our neighbors but we haven't established that relationship here!

What I love about this group is that we share with complete strangers with no expectation for anything in return. Well, I did receive a cutting from an ivy plant as a thank you from one person, but generally it's not expected to give something in return. And, new life is breathed into things that could be ignored or trashed.

To top it all off, I love how generous everyone is. The people who have delivered to someone who doesn't drive but needs something. The people who give out of their abundance to total strangers. The big and small things that are passed on to someone who can use it. It's pretty amazing how people share.

We need a little more sharing and giving in our world. The Church has set the example of this for generations, and I love that we continue to do it here at St. Mark's. We share our excess for the youth rummage sale. We share our time in missions projects like the Food Bank, ICS, and Market on the Move. We share our hearts in mentoring refugees or school students. We share our souls in small group interactions and discipleship groups. We share in big and small ways, and people do notice.

I invite you to pay attention to the givers in your life. Give thanks for them and share your appreciation to them. I also invite you to consider being a little more giving in your own life as well. What need can you meet? Maybe it's a cup of flour for your neighbor, maybe it's a ride or a card or a meal for someone. Maybe it's an hour of your time.

Thanks for giving, in big and small ways.

*See you soon,
Pastor Lynn*