

Messenger

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

Volume 63 No. 5

May 2023



St. Mark's and Sanctuary UMCs Vote YES to Merge

On April 30, both Sanctuary and St. Mark's UMCs held church conferences to vote regarding a proposed merger between our two churches. Both churches voted in support of the merger. The voting results reveal a high level of support for the merger among our members who voted. 78% of St. Mark's members present voted in favor while 85% of Sanctuary members present voted in favor.

This merger will next be presented to the Desert Southwest Conference's Annual Conference session, to take place June 15-17 in Mesa. After their approval, the work of implementation will begin, with a legal merge on July 1.

When it meets this month, the Covenant Council will appoint an implementation team. Members of both Sanctuary and St. Mark's will be on the team, doing the nuts and bolts work of merging two congregations legally and functionally. If you are interested in serving on this team, email us at merger@umcstmarks.org and let us know!

As we head into the summer, we look forward to sharing how the implementation team will lead us in the process of joining our churches together and setting us up for a great new season of ministry. Likely, we all have questions regarding our future, and we will be sharing the answers as they come. For now, though, may we all rest in the Holy Spirit's presence that will continue to enliven our churches and lead us forward. We invite you to join us in celebrating the past and present and to continue to work together to make the future bright for our church and the communities we serve.

Register Now to Attend or Volunteer at Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will take place from 6 to 8:15 p.m. June 5-9 and will include dinner each day beginning at 5 p.m. And WE NEED YOU!



Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! Twists & Turns™ is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to strategy games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS in fun locations such as the Bible Study Game Room, Wild Card Crafts, Multi-player Missions, and Skip Ahead Family Dinners! But more importantly, they'll see Jesus through the eyes of one of His closest friends and discover that trusting Jesus as Savior and following Him changes the game entirely!

Life is not all fun and games—even after becoming a Christian. It's full of twists and turns that can leave us feeling like we've taken one step forward and two steps back. That was certainly the case for Peter. He messed up; he stumbled; he wasn't perfect. But even when Peter messed up, it wasn't "Game Over." God still worked through Peter to help others learn about Jesus. As kids study five of Peter's encounters with Jesus, they'll discover that Jesus is holy, trustworthy, forgiving, worth following, and for everyone!

But wait! This isn't just for kids! We will have a PreTeens group and an adult group! Activities will include game nights (anyone like Euchre or Scrabble or Ticket to Ride or even Catan?)

Are you gifted at painting/creating/tracing? Help us build the fun and interactive backdrop! Email Cathy Harris-Herchenroeder at call_church_office_for_contact_info or Julie Eblen at julie@umcstmarks.org to find out how you can help.

To volunteer for the week of VBS, follow this link or sign up after worship services beginning May 14. Even if you can only do a day or a few days, we want YOU to join in the fun! <https://tinyurl.com/VBSvolunteers2023>

To register your child(ren) for Vacation Bible School, please visit https://stmarksumc.formstack.com/forms/vbs_form. Please complete a separate form for each child attending.

Join Us for Dinner and Ministry Architects Update

In September, St. Mark's embarked on a 19-month relationship with Ministry Architects, a consulting group that helps churches thrive by building systems, offering personal support, and honing strategies that truly work in churches seeking to make an impact in the world. They aren't actually architects with buildings and construction equipment, but they help churches build the support system for a thriving church.

We received input through a congregational survey, met for initial congregational conversation in September, and put into place a Renovation Team to work with the consultants on developing those systems that will lead to success. This team has been really busy! There's a report from them on page 9 in this newsletter. However, most of their work has been behind the scenes, so you haven't gotten to see it.

We invite you to a meeting to hear the progress made in these last seven months and to see what is happening next. Join us for dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 10, in the Fellowship Hall, then come over to our worship space for this meeting, which begins at 6:30. You can connect via Zoom, but we highly recommend joining in person as you will be able to participate better in discussions.

Music Transitions

We say a huge "thank you" to Pat Kaltenberger for leading the Celebration Singers for these last several months. She led the choir with contagious enthusiasm and energy, and we are grateful she shared her gifts in this way. We encourage you to send her a note of thanks (send it to the church office and we will deliver!).

We welcome Jane Anderson to our staff here at St. Mark's as our organist and director of the Celebration Singers. She will begin on May 8, and you'll get to see her on the organ bench for Mother's Day and Confirmation Sunday!

Exciting things are happening at St. Marks, and we are grateful for all the talented people who are leading us!

Coffee with the Pastor

Join Pastor Lynn for coffee! There is no agenda; bring your questions or just come to talk. We will be in the coffee shop at Barnes and Noble at the Foot-hills Mall from 9:30 to 11 a.m. May 17. Come for all or some of the time!



On Your Mark's Walking Group

Join us for "On Your Mark's Walking Group." In May, we will meet at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 2, and 7 a.m. Thursday, May 18. Meet at the church's north parking lot. We walk The Loop, neighborhoods, parks, and more! Bring water, layer clothing, hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses. Plan 90 minutes to walk 3-4 miles. Contact Cheri Schwartz (see church directory).

Third Monday Walking Group

The Third Monday Walking group will meet at 6:30 a.m. May 15 by the In and Out Burger parking lot across from Catalina State Park. The walk will take about 90 minutes on the walking/bike trail near the Oro Valley Marketplace. If you have questions contact Dave Brown at ([see church directory](#)).

Kids' Night Out Returns

St. Mark's Children's and Family Ministries is sponsoring a FREE Kids' Night Out from 5-8 p.m. Friday, May 19 for children 3 years old (and potty trained) through fifth grade. Child care will be provided for anyone under 3 years or not yet potty trained. There will be pizza, movies, games and crafts. Please feel free to bring an alternative dinner for anyone who does not eat pizza. Be on the lookout for a link in the Friday e-blast to sign up. Advance registration is required. Email info@umcstmarks.org to be added to the e-blast.

Senior Sunday is May 21

Graduation season is approaching! We are so proud of our students and all of their hard work. We will honor these students on May 21 in worship. If your child is graduating from high school or higher education, please send a picture to Rachel Mosher at rachel@umcstmarks.org. Please include the student's name and where they are graduating from. Thank you!



This photo was taken April 23 of the four Deaconesses and Home Missioners who have a connection to St. Mark's. St. Mark's has the distinction of having the most DHM from a single church.

Left to right: Martha Lundgren, Marjie Hrabe, Mark Hrabe, Jeannie Hughes.

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 ending May 17. 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 that began 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!

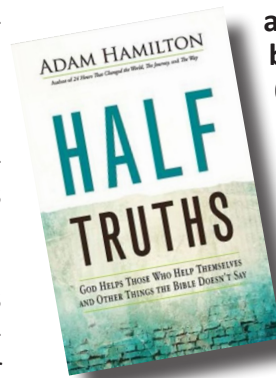
The Gospel of John. 11:15 a.m. in Room 17/18. Led by Brenda Hunter and Kelly Deyoe. The class reads this book of the Bible, chapter by chapter, to reflect on its meaning then and now. This class invites not only regular attendees but anyone who can only occasionally attend. Bring your Bible or there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

Class Leaders Needed!

Adult Spiritual Growth is always looking for new adult class and Disciple Study leaders, especially as class offerings ramp up beginning in the fall. Leaders help guide class participants through the study material and encourage discussion. Leaders are not expected to be a source of expertise! Rather, you are learning along with the class participants. Please consider becoming a leader of a one-time study, a short-term class, or even a study that meets regularly. The Adult Educational Resource Room 23 is full of class materials, including leader guides. Many of the course materials include online videos. A 2.5-hour Leader Training Class is being considered for August to help prepare new leaders. Watch for more information in the coming monthly Messengers. Contact: Marcia Rostad, chair, ASG (see church directory).

Book Study

"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. ending Monday, May 8, in Room 20. Led by Jim Nibbelink.



Hurry and join the final class! The study compares common Christian clichés with the wisdom found in Scripture. Some phrases this study examines include "Everything happens for a reason," "God helps those who help themselves," and "God won't give you more than you can handle."

Open Minds Book Group

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.

Collaboration with Church & Society for AAPI Month

We will discuss the illustrated memoir *Almost American Girl* by Robin Ha. This is a graphic novel. Like a comic book, graphic novels use sequential art to tell a story. But they are longer and tell a single, complete story. Robin tells her story of immigrating to the U.S. from Korea as a 14-year-old girl. **Join us for this discussion at 2 p.m. Monday, June 12 over Zoom. We will talk about the format and the content of the book. As a bonus, Rev. In-Sook Hwang will join us and sharing her story of immigrating from Korea.** The discussion will be led by Joylee Gathings.

Here, There, Now and Later Adjusting to Hybrid Worship

As a member of the Renovation Team, I was recently, tasked with identifying ways to connect with and care for those worshipping with us online. As I read articles and watched recorded worship services of similarly sized churches, I learned a lot about the demands of worship in today's world.

The pandemic changed the world in ways we hadn't anticipated. While St. Mark's had been experimenting with livestream services before the pandemic, the pandemic pushed us to develop new skills and get better at what we were doing. Attending worship is no longer something that is only available on Sunday mornings and within the church walls. With the advent of livestreams and postings of recorded worship services, we can share God's message 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We can now connect with those who ...

- work on Sundays
- are immuno-compromised and need to stay away from people
- are feeling under the weather or are ill on Sundays
- are traveling, away at college or in the military
- have circumstances that keep them at home
- are winter visitors who have returned home
- are looking for a new church

Hybrid (in-person and online) worship is the direction churches are moving. Jason Moore, author, media specialist, and worship consultant calls this the "Here and There, Now and Later" worship experience. Technology has given us a means to keep worship accessible to people at whatever time works for them, expanding our church's reach.

The development of hybrid worship has required churches to re-examine how they do worship. Online congregants expect the same production quality as they are used to when watching network television. Pastors need to enthusiastically grab the viewers' attention, keep worship momentum going, dispense with lengthy explanations and detailed announcements and minimize "deadtime." Additionally, pastors must become savvy about looking into cameras periodically, all while maintaining the privacy of those attending in-person worship.

As a church with a hybrid congregation, it is important that both those participating online and in person feel part of worship. Online participants should feel just as important as those worshipping in the pews. As we attempt to reach out, connect and care for those in our online community, we need to distinguish first-time viewers from familiar online participants. **You can help! When joining online, please sign in with our Sunday Tools (located in the Resources dropdown menu on our website), and indicate that you are watching online.** This will help us identify who is in our audience.

We all look forward to seeing friends in church, exchanging greetings with them or making newcomers feel welcome. If you are worshipping online, **please consider going into the "chat" feature and greeting others** and/or responding to questions posed by the pastors. Think of this as being an online greeter, helping others feel comfortable and safe sharing in worship.

Recently, Pastor Lynn shared that we had reached the mile-

United Women in Faith Meeting

St. Mark's United Women in Faith will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 9, in Room 17/18, and via Zoom. Our speaker will be our own Jeannie Hughes. Jeannie was very recently consecrated a United Methodist Deaconess. She will speak to us about the Deaconess program and her plans to serve as a deaconess.



**United
Women
in Faith**

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.

Rainbow Fellowship News

Rainbow Fellowship will not meet in May, as several of our members will be out of town. We will provide the Primavera meal on behalf of St. Mark's UMC on June 10. If you'd like to participate in that, please contact Holly Celmer at 520-730-4191. We will resume our regular meeting schedule at 9 a.m. Sunday, June 18 in the church library. If you have questions, please email rainbow@umcstmarks.org.



When Was the FIRST Great Revival?

PENTECOST SUNDAY! It occurs on the seventh Sunday after Easter. This year it is on May 28 and is the third-most important day in our Christian calendar. On this day there was a Holy Spirit revival as it came down and touched all who were present. Some consider this the birthday of the church. Please come and join me as we celebrate on that Sunday, and listen for God's word for us on that day. I invite you to wear RED because it is the color of celebration in the church.

See you then.

Rev. Evy

stone of more than 200 views for worship the previous week. We are farther along than most churches. We have knowledgeable pastors who understand what is involved in leading a hybrid worship service. Our pastors have restructured and continue to tweak our worship service to meet this need. Our church has invested in the necessary technology to help us better expand our reach. All of this serves us well as we move into the future as a congregation that looks to creative ways to take God's Word out into the world.

Diane Hiratsuka

St. Mark's Renovation Team



Church
&
Society



MARGARET HIRATSUKA has been worshipping with the St. Mark's UMC community since she moved here in 2015, the year after Frank Jr., her husband of 61 years, passed away. Margaret moved here to be close to her son, John Hiratsuka, his wife Diane and Margaret's grandsons, Tim and Nick. John, Diane and Nick have been active at St. Mark's for some years and Nick is our current Technology Coordinator. Margaret is Japanese-American, and along with her family was incarcerated in a Japanese internment camp during World War II.

Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor drew the United States into World War II and spawned a massive wave of fear across the country, prompting the U.S. government to round up and send more than 117,000 Japanese-Americans to internment camps. The attack took place at about 11:30 a.m. Dec. 7, 1941, in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. By 6:30 that evening, two FBI agents entered Margaret's parents' store in Seattle, handcuffed her father and made him and her mother sit silently at a table in the middle of the next room. While one agent stood guard over her father, the other agent took two hours to search their five-room apartment looking for lists of names, maps, documents, scrolls written in Japanese, etc. Her father was taken away and Margaret did not see him again for 3 ½ years. He was sent to Ft. Missoula Internment Camp in Montana. Margaret, her mother and her siblings were ultimately sent to a camp in Minidoka, ID. The internment camp experience affected all the family members.

To read the rest of Margaret's captivating and insightful story, go to this link:
<https://umcstmarks.org/racial-equity/racial-equity-resources>

Prepared by Art Ragland
Church and Society Committee

April 15, Day 105 of 2023

So Far This Year in the U.S.:

Mass Shooting Incidents (4 or more victims killed/wounded in each)	156
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Children (0-11) killed by gunfire	075
Teens (12-17) killed by gunfire	427
All Youth (0-17) injured by gunfire	1208

Unintentional Shootings	434
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Please visit gunviolencearchive.org to see more statistics and learn more about the organization's background, methodology, and sources of information.

May 20 is Armed Forces Day

"Thank you for your service." We offer these words of thanks to those we know who currently serve in the military each May on Armed Forces Day. And these are words I would never have heard in the early days of my Air Force career. It was post-Vietnam era and America was still hurting and divided about the conflict there. As with most things, respect has cycled back into the public conversation and now it's practically considered unpatriotic if we do not vocally support our U.S. military activities. Frankly, this has always been a conundrum for me. Even as I served, I was a peacenik at heart and struggled at times (especially during my time in a Saudi command post in Desert Storm) with cognitive dissonance. I discovered the United Methodist Church late in my career and as I learned about the *Social Principles* I resonated with its language on war:

We deplore war and urge the peaceful settlement of all disputes among nations. From the beginning, the Christian conscience has struggled with the harsh realities of violence and war, for these evils clearly frustrate God's loving purposes for humankind. We yearn for the day when there will be no more war and people will live together in peace and justice. Some of us believe that war, and other acts of violence, are never acceptable to Christians. We also acknowledge that many Christians believe that, when peaceful alternatives have failed, the force of arms may regretfully be preferable to unchecked aggression, tyranny and genocide. We honor the witness of pacifists who will not allow us to become complacent about war and violence. We also respect those who support the use of force, but only in extreme situations and only when the need is clear beyond reasonable doubt, and through appropriate international organizations. We urge the establishment of the rule of law in international affairs as a means of elimination of war, violence, and coercion in these affairs.

The *Principles* leave open the possibility for war as an unfortunate necessity; a last-ditch effort on behalf of our country. I would agree, but my own standards for when to employ our military forces are exceptionally high. I'd prefer our troops stay safe and never face having to make war. But never forget that we DO ask a lot from our troops when we engage in warfighting. It is only appropriate that we respect and value their service and commitment; their offer to give their all – even their lives – on behalf of our nation. So, it's OK to decry war AND thank a troop for their service. Democracy is messy – but never forget Jesus calls us all to be compassionate neighbors, first.

Melinda Sims, Maj, USAF (Ret),
Church and Society Committee

Many Needs

The Missions Committee has prepared a list of organizations that we are funding in 2023. They are funded at the same level as 2022 for now. Additional requests may be made to the committee for review and approval. Members are Chair Mary Beth Barone, Linda Martino, Ron Schindler, Pat Small, John Yost, Holly Celmer, Kathie Barrett, Lori Jordan, and Ray and Mary Helen Pelton.

Mary Beth Barone

Focus on Boxed Cereal for ICS



We are in our fourth year of providing weekly food assistance to the Northwest Food Bank at Interfaith Community Services. With the higher cost of food, our continued support is needed and very helpful. Inflation causes donations to decrease while more people need this food assistance. We are featuring boxed breakfast cereal and oatmeal through the end of May. You can bring 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. Thanks for your help!

Market on the Move is May 6

Market on the Move's last event for this season is 8-10 a.m. Saturday, May 6, here at St. Mark's. Market on the Move is a seasonal mission in which we provide a double service. It keeps excess produce out of the landfill while providing up to 60 lbs. of produce for only \$10. Every month is different, so if there is something you can't use, share with a neighbor or make a new friend. Come in off La Cañada, follow the signs, pay the volunteers and follow more signs and instructions from other volunteers. Volunteers will put your goodies into your trunk. Exit onto Magee with God's blessing and ours. Questions? Contact Lenna Burnham (see church directory).



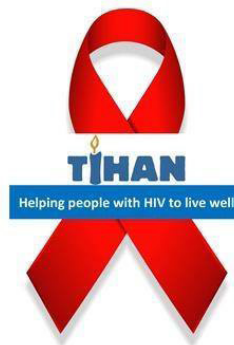
Sign Up to Cook for Primavera Men's Shelter

We served two great meals at Primavera Men's Shelter in March and April. Elizabeth Miller, Kathie Barrett, Karen Berry, and Kay Hayworth served in March. In April a group organized by Kathy Howard included Karen Holesworth, Kaye Baumgartner, Karen Berry, Jan Walker, Monique Thibault, Kitty Tobin and Bill Purkey. If you are interested in getting a group together to help, Holly Celmer has a book of recipes and directions to get your group started. Call Holly at (see church directory).



TIHAN POZ CAFÉ a Success Thanks to You

DELIGHT! SMILES! HUGS! This is how TIHAN's CarePartners (clients) showed their appreciation for what you good people of St. Mark's (and two other congregations) helped make possible—the FIRST post-pandemic Poz Café and the **35,000th meal served**. More than 130 people partook in a delicious luncheon and played games, and some won Bingo/Raffle prizes. Five St. Mark's volunteers worked their proverbial "buns" off!!



In my (Pat) small social group of 8-10, there was a person who has been HIV+ for 30+ years and someone who just tested positive within this last year! Sadly, the virus lives on, often compromising the immune systems of society's most vulnerable. You helped provide a safe, friendly venue in which they could relax and break bread together! THANK YOU!! —HIV/AIDS Committee

Nash School Needs Furniture Donations

EC Nash Elementary School staff is looking forward to refreshing their staff lounge to, in their words, "make our teachers' lounge a little less stale and more inviting." If you are planning on getting some new furniture or have already done so, they are looking for donations of gently used furniture, a couple of arm chairs, a sofa, coffee table, end table, maybe some dinette sets. They also plan to paint the walls and hang some photos. If you have anything that fits this description, please email Carol Cecilia, (see church directory). —Carol Cecilia, Nash Neighbors chair

Youth Ministry

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



Youth Group Calendar grades 6-12



May 7

May 14



May 14

May 21



May 31
Middle School Mission

St. Mark's Youth Group LinkTree



find the most up to date links for all things youth!

St. Mark's Youth has so many fun things going on, we started using a LinkTree to organize all of the most up-to-date links! Check this out for event signups, online payments, and social media pages!

A Look Ahead

On April 30, we had a big vote for our whole congregation to decide whether we wanted to merge, or join with, Sanctuary United Methodist Church. At this vote, we, as a church, decided that YES we want to join together in ministry with the wonderful people at Sanctuary and work together to reach more people and show them the love of God! I know many of you have many questions (I do too!) but I want to make sure you know that St. Mark's Youth Group can only get better and better by inviting more friends to join us. Things may change slightly, but change is good! Having more friends and reaching more people is our goal, and what a great way for us to do that!

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



MAY 21
WATER GAMES
DON'T FORGET A TOWEL & SUNSCREEN



MAY 7
FAMILY SERVICE SUNDAY (NO MEETING)



MAY 14
MOTHER'S DAY (NO MEETING)



MAY 28
MEMORIAL DAY (NO MEETING)

Youth Ministry

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



SUMMER YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION

"At the Well"

9 a.m. to 8 p.m. May 31

Sign up today at our LinkTree! (See front of youth page.)



This will be my first year in middle school mission, I am super excited about doing mission with my church. I am really looking forward to doing many missions and helping people. I have heard from older kids that it is really fun. I'm also excited about seeing other kids and people. It is super

thrilling because I don't know what we're going to do during the mission. I am super enthusiastic to explain to my friends what we did. –Norah, 5th grade

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT



June 23 - July 1 Tsaile, AZ

We still have room! Sign up at our LinkTree, and talk to Rachel today!

As an 8th grader, this is my very first SSP that I have had the honor to participate in. Not only am I excited for the side trip that Mrs. Rachel planned, but I am also excited for

the mission work that we have organized. In youth group, we often help the community in different ways such as cooking meals for Primavera Men's Shelter. But, what I'm looking forward to is personally assisting those in need, hands-on. I'm sure SSP will be very fun, and I'm looking forward to any missions trips in the future. –Maddie, 8th grade

YOUTH 2023

July 23-28, 6th-12th grade, Daytona Beach, FL



I can't wait to go to Youth 2023. I am one of the few lucky enough to say that I was able to go to Youth 19

also so this will be my second national conference. Not many things have impacted my faith like Youth 19 did. I can clearly remember we had one speaker that we chose to listen to, and her story changed the way I saw homeless people since. One thing at Youth 2023 that I'm super excited for is worship on the beach, worship on the beach with thousands of people is something that I just CAN'T wait to be a part of. –Daniel, 12th grade

WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP

St. Mark's Service Sunday

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 7 (note the time change!)



Throughout the year, we have had many Service Sundays, and they have been so much fun! May 7, though, is a little different! On May 7, the WHOLE congregation will be participating in a Service Sunday – this time in the morning! You are welcome to sign up with your family for any of the amazing projects St. Mark's is of-

fering OR we have an awesome project here on campus for any youth who want to participate. We will build our very own Little Free Library! Have extra books you would like to add in? Put them in our collection box (under the bulletin board) anytime!

Confirmation Sunday

10 a.m. worship service May 14

Confirmation Sunday is one of my favorite days here at St. Mark's. Students spend all year learning and growing together. We cover SO MUCH in our classes! From our Jewish heritage, up through what it means to choose Jesus, and everything in between. It's a special day for students when they get to stand in front of the congregation and take the Confirmation vows. My goal this year is to not cry. Think I can do it? Doubtful...

Mother's Day

May 14 NO YOUTH

Also on May 14 is Mother's Day! We will take the evening off so you can celebrate the amazing women in your life, whether it's Mom, Grandma, aunts, or super-amazing friends. Join us in Sunday School (or in the Confirmation service!), and we will see you on the 21st for another fun evening!

H2oUNGER GAMES!

4-6 p.m. May 21

It's back by popular demand! Our water-based Hunger Games return on May 21. Come ready to battle, get soaked, and laugh – a lot! You may want to bring a towel. Or a change of clothes. Shoes that you can run in AND get wet are a must!



May 14—**David Titzel**

May 22—**Olivia Merchen**

May 24—**Hope Howell**

May 26—**Carter DaDeppo**

May 29—**Quinten Kiracofe**



Renovation Team Update

The St. Mark's Renovation Team and Ministry Architects have been busy since work began seven months ago.

- A visitor assimilation plan is finished and a seven-member Connection Team has been formed and trained. This will help a second-time visitor receive a personal welcome and move the visitor toward membership.
- The Shepherd Project has located 170 people who were not in our attendance records.
- Several special interest groups have formed.
- The St. Mark's database has been reviewed and staff will make ongoing updates.
- The Renovation Prayer Team is in service.
- St. Mark's volunteer positions have been identified. Job descriptions are in progress. A "volunteer accelerator" is being developed, which will help match volunteers and jobs at St. Mark's.
- A plan to better connect with and care for online viewers has been developed. There will be some minor changes to the worship organization to help identify who is watching and to encourage increased engagement by those worshipping online. A monthly virtual "coffee with the pastor" will begin in early June.
- IT assets, including software, are being inventoried. We are identifying what is working well and what is not.
- An outreach and connection plan has been written for youth, grades six through 12. Work is under way on a similar plan for nursery through fifth-graders.
- St. Mark's ministries have been identified. Their current effectiveness is being evaluated to tell us what St. Mark's is doing right and what needs our attention.
- St. Mark's leaders have been asked to fill out a survey that will help in the evaluation of the church's ministries.

If you would like to learn more, please join us at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 10, for a congregational meeting in our worship space. Ministry Architects will be here to talk about the work being done and to answer your questions. Dinner will be offered at 5:30 p.m. as well!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at renovationteam@umcstmarks.org. We would like to hear from you.

Your Renovation Team:

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

Upcoming Concert Events

Music fans, mark your calendars! Our Music Department has two concerts coming up: the Tucson Flute Club Members' Recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 7, and the Desert Chameleon Community Band, 3 p.m. Sunday, May 21.

The Tucson Flute Club

was founded in 1970 and is now in its 52nd consecutive year of operation. The group runs a large flute choir, the



Southern Arizona Flute Orchestra, with about 30 members, which performs concerts regularly around the community. Audience members delight in seeing the five different sizes of flutes – piccolo, concert flute, alto flute, bass flute, and contrabass flute – that give this ensemble a deep, rich sound. The repertoire includes adaptations and arrangements of familiar melodies as well as original compositions, some of which are written by local composers.

The Members' Recital will also feature small ensembles and soloists. Find out more about the club by visiting <https://www.tucsonfluteclub.org>.



Desert Chameleon Community Band is proud to present an afternoon of Silver Screen and TV music for its Fifth Annual Spring Concert at St.

Mark's. There will be a contest with prizes for naming the movie or TV show for each song. Don't miss out because you may actually win "A Brand New Car"! Join us outside in the courtyard where we'll have free munchies for all with a popcorn vendor while you enjoy our latest super fun show.

Veterans Gathering

Hey, veterans! Join us for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Friday, May 26, 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.

Mission u Registration is Open

Mission u is an annual event offering opportunities for adults, youth and children to grow spiritually, learn about issues affecting society and experience Christian mission in its many forms. Mission u is sponsored jointly by the Conference Global Ministries team and the United Women in Faith.

Contact Lorraine Shaw (see church directory) of United Women in Faith to have registration information forwarded.

CONDOLENCES

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

- **Delaine Tinsley**, who died March 30.
- **Kathy Hinton**, who died April 18.

LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Please keep these people in your prayers. Email additions or updates to messenger@umcstmarks.org.

Hank Bautzmann, son of Nancy Bautzmann
Alex Boettcher, grandson of Carla & Paul Boettcher
Jacob W. Boettcher, grandson of Carla & Paul Boettcher
Christian Bowers, grandson of Doug & Charlotte Bowers
Jon Chytka, nephew of Donna Severson
Zachary Dojaquez, grandson of Donna Severson
Patrick Emmett, son of Julie Wiens
Mike Freeman, son of Ken & Ann Freeman
Matthew Hughey, son of Juliee & Billy Morrison and grandson of Joyce Flick
Rachel Kester, daughter of Don Kester & Ruth Kester
Don Lauver, Son-in-law of Linda Connolly
Sam and Nathan Lennarson, grandsons of John & Sherri Lennarson

Chad Long, grandson of Pat Long
Jake Newton, son of Robert & Cheri Newton
John O'Regan, husband of Ashley O'Regan and grandson-in-law of Janet Krug
Brian Osborn, pastor in the DSW Conference
William Putt, son of Harold & Susan Putt
Geoffrey Shafe, grandson of Mary Langemeier
Clint Staschke, son-in-law of Cliff & June Young
Jacob Szczygiel, grandson of Joyce Flick
Michael and Karisa Szczygiel, son-in-law and daughter of Joyce Flick
Brianna Walker, granddaughter of Barbara Fradenburgh; niece of Joan Fradenburgh



St. Mark's UMC
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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...



With a lot of gratitude,
Alona
Ukrainian in Tucson

Many thanks to our church family for all their love and support during our medical issues this year. It started with Erik's brain surgery in early January and continued with Sandi's recent surgery for breast cancer. The cards, emails, texts, prayers, flowers, food and offers of help have surrounded us and lifted our spirits immensely. Your continued prayers are appreciated as Sandi continues her journey through chemo and radiation in the coming months. We are so grateful to be part of the St. Mark's family!
Erik von Nieda and Sandi Heilman

This is an update about a last update :))
I'm happy to inform you that having received offers from all the schools I applied to, I have decided to stay here – in the Second Language Acquisition and Teaching program at the University of Arizona.

I wanted to share it with you as your support and prayers meant a lot for me and I'm sure helped my situation.

May 2023

Prayers

St. Mark's United Methodist

Give thanks for St. Mark's and Sanctuary UMCs' ministers, staffs, and Merger Task Force members who have looked at, studied, and developed a plan to merge in the northwest Tucson and Marana communities following the April 30 vote that approved the merger. Pray God's continued guidance and blessing as this action needs to be approved by the Desert Southwest Annual Conference meeting in June, and as specific merger implementation work/actions begin.

Pray for the Sunday morning worship services. May we feel God's presence and blessing as we are together. Give thanks for those who come in person and for those who worship online. Give thanks for our ministers, musicians, and those who provide technical support each week.

Pray God's blessings for Service Sunday on May 7. May everyone serving on the St. Mark's campus and throughout the surrounding neighborhoods show God's love and share His presence, as we visit nursing homes and care facilities, write notes to members serving in the military and to our homebound members, paint hopscotch games at Nash Elementary, do yard work at nearby personal residences, visit with people and pay for their laundry at three laundromats, assemble "manna bags" for homeless people, re-package dog food to be distributed to the needy for their dogs, and more.

Give thanks for the luncheon we will share after Service Sunday activities and for the people who will prepare the food.

Pray God's blessings and good attendance at the Wednesday Night Soul Station meal and program each week. May the community meal, programs, worship services, Communion, and fellowship of people who meet in Fellowship Hall as well as those who join online be blessed. Pray also for volunteers, church groups, committees, and teams to provide the meal. (Call the church office to sign up to provide meals.)

Pray for the St. Mark's youth, for youth leader Rachel Mosher, and for applicable families as they plan, prepare, and raise funds to attend the quadrennial Youth 2023 event in Florida this summer. Ask God's blessings for the various fundraising opportunities the congregation will have to help.

Pray for the St. Mark's youth, for youth leader Rachel Mosher, for other leaders, and for applicable families as they plan, prepare, and raise funds to participate in the annual Sierra Service Project youth mission trip this summer from June 25 - July 1 in Tsaile, AZ.

Continue prayers for the St. Mark's ministers, staff, and members of the Renovation Team, as work continues with the consulting firm, Ministry Architects. Pray especially for the next meeting between Ministry Architects representatives and the St. Mark's congregation beginning at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 10. Pray for good attendance and participation. Give thanks also for the meal being offered beforehand beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and for the people who prepare the food.

Pray for all middle school students and chaperones from around Southern Arizona who will participate in a one-day mission/service experience on Wednesday, May 31. This event begins and ends at St. Mark's UMC.

South District Superintendent, Rev. Matt Ashley, asks us to pray during the month of May for the pastors and ministries of Grace UMC, Douglas; Huachuca UMC, Huachuca City; and Menlo Park UMC, Tucson.

Find this card on the church website at <https://umcstmarks.org/ministries/congregational-care-ministries/>

Reflections

Summer Travels Coming Up!

When my husband and I married in 2001, we had a five-year plan. We were going to get out of debt, go to Europe, then have babies. The more well-seasoned people in our life would laugh at this plan, knowing that plans like that rarely go on schedule. As it happens, we were able to get out of debt before we became pregnant with our first child in our fifth year of marriage, but Europe never happened.

Fast forward to last fall; Rev. Sharon Ragland, the former pastor here, approached me about scheduling the Wesley Heritage Tour that was canceled by the pandemic. This tour of England visits the major sites of John and Charles Wesley's lives as they began what became the Methodist churches. Many pastors are able to do this tour in seminary or just after, but I never had the chance. I jumped at the opportunity, and Sharon planned it for the week after our kids are out of school so they can come too.

So, we are going to England with 20+ people from St Mark's and another 20 or so from elsewhere in Arizona and beyond. There will be seven pastors and a deaconess on the trip! I can't wait! I'm married to a Meth-Nerd, one who gets excited and actually remembers stuff about Methodism and the Wesleys. My daughter is in confirmation class this year, so she knows a lot of church history too. I am looking forward to the community-building that will happen as we explore our roots of Methodism. I am

looking forward to discovering how our past can inform our present and our future.

But wait, there's more! We saved up our vacation for the year and will be spending a week in Paris beforehand and an extra few days in London afterward. I'm praying my kids' French classes in school will come in handy! I'm looking forward to this time to reconnect with my kids and husband after a long school year, to explore a new place and discover new things, and to experience what it's like to be the visitor, the outsider in a place.

What are your big plans for the summer? Already many of you are going home for the summer or getting ready for your vacations. Some of you are traveling for graduations or weddings. Some are on your own bucket list of places to see and things to do. No matter where you go this summer, don't forget you can join us for worship online! God doesn't take a vacation and reminds us not to neglect our spiritual practices that help us to stay connected with our Creator. Prayer, worship, scripture reading, giving – all connect us with God. No matter where you go, God is there!

See you soon!
Pastor Lynn