

Messenger

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

Volume 63 No. 6

June 2023



Time is Running Out to Sign Up For Vacation Bible School



Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! **Twists & Turns™ Vacation Bible School** is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds for EVERYONE 3 years old (and potty trained) through completion of fifth grade, and there's an adult program as well. It's time to volunteer, donate, and sign up! Life is not all fun and games, even as a Christian. We will learn and see how trusting and following Jesus will change the game entirely! **This Vacation Bible School event is June 5-9** and will include dinner each evening beginning at 5 p.m. with activities taking place from 6-8:15 p.m. Use the links below to sign up to volunteer or attend. We also need craft supplies and items for our "Friendship Soup" mission project for Interfaith Community Services.

Volunteer link – <https://tinyurl.com/VBSvolunteers2023>

Registration link for children and adults – https://stmarksumc.formstack.com/forms/vbs_form or visit the "Forms" page under "Resources" on the St. Mark's website.

Adults: We have a great program for you. After dinner Monday – Thursday, we'll have short table discussions in the Fellowship Hall on the same topics that are presented to the kids. Then we'll have age-appropriate games – don't knock it 'til you've tried it! Friday evening, adults are invited to hang out, with more games, or take some together time off campus before the children present their closing program.

Questions? Contact Pastor Kim, kim@umcstmarks.org.

Meet the Merger Implementation Team!

Following the vote in favor of merging Sanctuary and St. Mark's United Methodist churches, councils at each church elected members from each congregation to serve on the Implementation Team. This team is tasked with the job of making the merger a reality. It begins its work with several main objectives:

1. Work with the lawyer from the Desert Southwest Conference to file the appropriate paperwork to make this a legal merger.
2. Empower committees such as Staff-Parish Relations and Finance to do the work of merging, and set forth a plan for how Nominations will fill committees for the new year.
3. Form subteams as needed.
4. Form community—how do we move from "them and us" to "we"? This is both a short-term and a long-term goal.

Nine people are on the Implementation Team. Three come from Sanctuary UMC, four from St. Mark's, plus **Pastors Kevin and Lynn**.

- **Johanna Eubank**, a volunteer in the former contemporary "The Gathering" service at St. Mark's, who brings a reporter's eye and an organized mind to the team.
- **Roxanna Green**, a longtime Sanctuary member and parent of a youth representative.
- **Sandi Heilman**, a longtime member who once worked in the St. Mark's church office and has a great memory for institutional history.
- **Marci Hill**, a member of the St. Mark's Covenant Council, who has a background in structural organization, administration, and previous work with area churches.
- **Kerry Powers**, former Church Council Chair at Sanctuary and a member of the Merger Task Force.
- **Mario Sanchez**, former Lay Leader at Sanctuary, a counselor, and a parent.
- **Kitty Tobin**, a newer member of St. Mark's, who is a retired mental health counselor with a heart for people and service in the world.

This team of rock stars began their work in the last weeks and will be meeting regularly through the summer. Thank you for your prayers for them as they guide us!

Say Farewell to Pastor Stuart

Sunday, June 11, is Pastor Stuart's last Sunday at St. Mark's. Please join us in thanking him and celebrating his time as part of the St. Mark's family, nearly five years!



Please drop a card in the "Cards for Stuart" mailbox in the church office. ("Wish him well, you will!" as Yoda would say!) Cards can be mailed/brought to church, and there will be baskets in the church narthex and in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays, June 4 and June 11. If email is more convenient, you can email your good wishes to SPRC@umcstmarks.org and they will be combined and added.

A reception will take place in the Fellowship Hall after both church services on the 11th. Please stop by to wish Stuart well, thank him, share a favorite memory, impart some Star Wars wisdom and enjoy some cake and other goodies.

Online Coffee with the Pastor

Everyone who attends worship online is invited to an online Coffee With the Pastor. We will meet at 11:30 a.m., right after the second service, on Sunday, June 4. **This will be one of the last times that online worshipers will have to say goodbye to Pastor Stuart as he prepares to move.**



To take part, email info@umcstmarks.org to receive the Zoom invitation.

On Your Mark's Walking Group will not meet again until July. Stay tuned for updates!

Donate School Supplies for Nash Elementary

It's true that the school year just ended, but the next one will be here before you know it! The St. Mark's Nash Neighbors Committee will once again collect school supply donations for Nash Elementary students, before and after services most Sundays in July (July 2, 9, 16 and 23). We are asking for the congregation's support. We will have a blue bin in the church courtyard for your donations.



To make a monetary donation, please write "Nash School Supplies" on the memo line of your check and mail to the church office, 1431 W. Magee Road, Tucson AZ 85704. You may also give online by visiting the church website, then going to the "Giving" tab. Click on "Donations" and scroll down to the "Nash School Supplies" option.

Summer Office Hours in Effect

With school no longer in session, snowbirds leaving or already gone, and no staff person assigned to the front office (this is temporary!), things are slowing down, so summer office hours took effect June 1.



Until further notice, church office hours are:

- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday
- 9 a.m. to noon Friday (this day remains unchanged)

To request facilities use or have an item added to the church calendar, please email calendar@umcstmarks.org.

Direct other inquiries to info@umcstmarks.org.

Sing in the Summer Choir

We encourage anyone who enjoys singing to come sing in the summer choir, a "pickup" choir that meets at 8 a.m. and rehearses in the choir room for 25 minutes, prior to the 8:30 a.m. Sunday worship service. No weekday rehearsals. Summer choir will sing for both services every other Sunday starting next Sunday, June 4. Music can be found in the choir room and can be rehearsed at home! All levels are encouraged to sing!



Third Monday Walking Group

The Third Monday Walking Group will meet again at 6:30 a.m. June 19 to walk the cart path at the Pusch Ridge Golf Course. We will meet at the golf course parking lot, and the walk will take about 75 minutes. Please contact Dave Brown if you are interested. ([see church directory](#))



Suggested supplies to donate:

- Kleenex tissues
- Hand Sanitizer, unscented, 30-34 oz. pump bottles
- Disinfectant Wipes, large canisters
- Elmer's Glue Sticks
- Expo Dry Erase Markers (thick or thin tipped, black or multi)
- Scissors, student-size rounded tip
- Pencils, No. 2 (yellow preferred)
- Ziplock bags (gallon sized)

Questions? Contact Sheli Gray (call the church office or see the most recent church directory for contact info). Thank you for your support of the children of Nash!

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.)

Monthly Musical Movies Are Back!!

Last summer, St. Mark's folks enjoyed monthly movies with music and lyrics by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein. We sang along and brought our snacks and drinks, and some of us actually dressed in the styles of the movies as we joined at the church to experience "South Pacific," "Oklahoma" and "The King and I." Besides being great entertainment, each movie had its unique look at social issues that are still with us today.

The Adult Spiritual Growth committee will offer three different musicals this summer for our entertainment, fun and thought.

In June we hope you will join us for 1951's movie version of "Showboat" by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein. This colorful, thought-provoking movie is based on a novel by Edna Ferber and stars Kathryn Grayson, Howard Keel and Ava Gardner. Bring your beverages and snacks and prepare to sing along to "Ol' Man River" and other great songs.

The June movie will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, in Room 17/18. In the meantime, warm up those vocal chords and shop for those movie snacks!

Adult Sunday School

Study TBA. 9:30-11 a.m. in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Led by Rick Farnsworth and Carl Harrison. Please register to secure the Zoom link. Drop-ins are welcome!

The Gospel of John. 11:15 a.m. in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. 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. Please register to secure the Zoom link.

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, Adult Spiritual Growth chair (see church directory).

Study Collaboration with Church & Society

We will discuss the illustrated memoir, *Almost American Girl*, by Robin Ha. If you have never read a graphic novel before, here is your opportunity. 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 share her story of immigrating from Korea.** Invite a friend or teenager in your life to join you in reading and discussing this book! Led by Joylee Gathings.

Ada Harrison Scholarship Fund

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

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



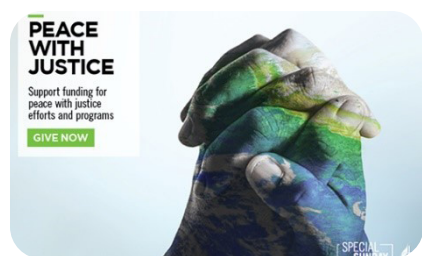
Church & Society

Peace With Justice Special Sunday Offering June 11

The UMC observes "Peace with Justice Sunday" after Pentecost. The General Board of Church and Soci-

ety has a vision to promote justice by advocating for public policies that protect the rights of all people. It is said that without justice, there can be no peace. So if we want peace, we must be committed to disrupting the conditions and systems that perpetuate injustice. Examples include providing access to safe and healthy food, having clean water and air, providing opportunities for everyone to thrive and eliminating gender inequality, racism and xenophobia.

This offering supports fostering a better world by educating leaders and change-makers to become grassroots



activists and global advocates who challenge systems of inequality. It also supports the connection of networks with ecumenical communities to advance peace and justice. Half

of our Peace with Justice offering is distributed to organizations promoting peace right here in the Desert Southwest Conference. The other half provides grants to local churches, districts, conferences, and other affiliated organizations that advocate for peace with justice. St. Mark's will collect this offering on Sunday, June 11.

Did you know ...? Gun Violence Edition

Beginning in 2020, firearms (accidents, suicides, and homicides) became the No. 1 cause of death for people between the ages of 1-19 in the U.S., according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, which lists itself as an independent source for health policy information. (You can see comparisons of this U.S. statistic to those of other peer countries at kff.org.) Please also note that sadly, this month's mass shooting tally does NOT include deaths from the Farmington, NM mass shooting on May 16.

May 15, Day 135 of 2023

	As of 05/15	As of 04/15
So Far This Year in the U.S.:		
Mass Shooting Incidents (4 or more victims killed/wounded in each)	224	156
Children (0-11) killed by gunfire	098	075
Teens (12-17) killed by gunfire	560	427
All Youth (0-17) injured by gunfire	1610	1208
Unintentional Shootings	559	434

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

New to St. Mark's and Want to Change the World?

As we look to walk with Jesus as our model and guide, your Church and Society committee believes all of us can make a difference in the world! C&S is actively engaged in addressing racial equity and justice, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, and social justice through civic engagement. As our committee grows, we've begun expanding our areas of coverage to include anti-violence and creation care activities. If this resonates with you, please contact our chair, Melinda Sims at wndrzfan@netzero.net. We'd be happy to have you join us as we take small, steady steps to change the world together.

Heads Up! Changes Ahead for Medicaid/AHCCCS (from office of Rep. Raul Grijalva):

Have you heard about upcoming changes to Medicaid or the "Medicaid Unwinding" and wonder how this affects you? Use the guidance below to learn more about the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System Medicaid "unwinding" plan. At the beginning of the pandemic, Congress enacted a law requiring Medicaid programs keep people enrolled continuously until the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Congress has terminated this requirement, which means states can de-enroll people who no longer meet Medicaid eligibility requirements. Arizona has begun this "relaxing" process to determine who remains eligible for Medicaid and KidsCare.

1. Make sure your mailing address, phone number, and email address are correct. Log in to www.healthearizonaplus.gov, or call Health-e-Arizona Plus at 1-855-HEA-PLUS (1-855-432-7587), Monday through Friday 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
2. Check your mailbox for a letter from AHCCCS about renewal of coverage. It will be in a business envelope with an address window.
3. Respond to any requests from AHCCCS for more information so the agency can accurately determine your eligibility.
4. Sign up for texts or emails from AHCCCS about your renewal. Log in to (or create) your Health-e-Arizona Plus account.
5. **Watch out for fraud!** AHCCCS will never ask you to pay money to renew your AHCCCS or KidsCare coverage.

Rainbow Fellowship News

The fellowship's next event will be to provide the Primavera meal on behalf of St. Mark's UMC on June 10. If you'd like to participate, please contact head cook and menu planner Mary Beth Barone (see church directory). We will resume our regular meeting schedule at 9 a.m. Sunday, June 18 in the church library. All are welcome to participate in any of our activities! If you have questions, please contact Melinda Sims at rainbow@umcstmarks.org.



Busy, Busy Month of May

May was a busy month for the Missions Committee. We gave funds to several of our organizations. Market on the Move sold out AGAIN this month with 244 orders, which included mangoes, radishes, tomatoes, artisan lettuce, white mushrooms, blackberries, sweet breads and Brussels sprouts. The women at Emerge were delighted to receive Mother's Day bags. We continue to volunteer at least monthly at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona in addition to our twice-weekly collection for the Northwest Food Bank at Interfaith Community Services. For that, 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. AND we had our first-ever Service Sunday on May 7! (See center spread of this newsletter for details!)

Mary Beth Barone, Missions Committee Chair

Our final Market on the Move of the season took place May 6 in the south parking lot with help from lots of volunteers! See you in the fall!



Sign Up to Cook for Primavera Men's Shelter

We have committed to serving a meal at the Primavera Men's Shelter on the second and fifth (when there is one) Saturdays of each month. This month, the Rainbow Fellowship is serving at Primavera on June 10. 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 520-730-4191.



What a great day at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona! We really worked well together May 19 to help produce 1,040 boxes of food. This equals 32,000 lbs. of food that will be distributed to qualifying seniors across Southern Arizona. Thank you all for showing up and putting in the work!

Our next visit is scheduled for Saturday, June 17. Contact KJ Nae (see church directory) for details.



Our First Service Sunday Was a Major Success

What a GLORIOUS day! More than 175 people went in a myriad of directions to serve in God's name. Guaranteed was that individuals' lives were better and uplifted, places were made better, or folks and pets were provided for. The energy and joy with which everyone worked was indescribable – and it wasn't all air-conditioned.

In Catalina, a home surrounded by dried brush was a tinderbox awaiting a spark. Other properties were cleaned up, too. Nash Elementary received two hand-painted hopscotch grids, expertly laid out by six St. Mark's volunteers. Mountain View and Life Care centers enjoyed a musical program produced from among St. Mark's talent. Mountain View also got a brightened and beautiful courtyard. Others received individual visits from St. Mark's volunteers, and each received a hand-painted rock. (Holly Celmer painted 50!) Volunteers filled 200 manna bags for the homeless on the street, and similar bags were filled with pet food for their companions. People walked out of laundries with their laundry paid for by St. Mark's, going home with money they thought they would have to spend. The youth assembled and painted a "little free" library box across from the Wesley House, inviting free reading for the preschool. And let's not forget those who remained to pray for us and also to write notes to our graduates and veterans.

None of this could have been done without Anita Winslow, Tricia Chester, the Women United in Faith, or the Marks-men. Thank you. I only regret we had no opportunity to share within our congregation the moments experienced by many of us. Bless you all.

Kathie Barrett, organizer

We all know that God wants us to study God's word and to worship together, but God wants more than that. When we leave our cushioned pews, Jesus asks us to be His hands and feet in how we treat each other and how we serve each other.

Many of you did exactly that on May 7. You wrote notes, you cleared weeds, you painted a hopscotch game, you helped with laundry, you packed food and manna bags, you prepared food, you prayed for others, you built a small library, and the list goes on.

The whole day, beginning with the sending out of our volunteers in red shirts at the 8:30 service, was inspiring. Each of us got to experience the church universally through mission. All of this happened because Kathie Barrett met with the pastors and asked this question: What would it be like if we chose a Sunday and actually did what Jesus calls us to do? Lynn's answer: Sure. Let's make it happen. (paraphrased conversation)

Thank you, Kathie, for all of the work you did to organize Service Sunday! Thank you, volunteers, for all of your great work on that exciting day.

*Blessings,
Pastor Kim*



Reflections from a Volunteer

When I signed up to participate in one of the service groups on May 7, I didn't give it much thought. Yes, community outreach is good; after all, it's what we as Christians are called to do. But I didn't anticipate what my assignment—to visit residents in two health care facilities—would require of me or how it would affect me. I've visited friends who needed rehab in health care facilities, but on Service Sunday we were asked to visit people whom we didn't know.

Upon our arrival at Mountain View Care Center, the activities director greeted the nine of us led by Al Anderson. The activities director had a list of 15 residents who wanted a visit from St. Mark's members. We split into groups of two or three so we could spend time with each person and give them a painted rock that a thoughtful St. Mark's member had donated for this purpose. Those lovely rocks were much appreciated. I partnered with Jacque Lucke, who found the right words to comfort a resident when I was at a loss. It was a blessing to have Jacque by my side that day.

The five residents we met had diverse needs. The first one caught me by surprise with her exuberant joy as we entered her room. "You've come to pray for me!" she exclaimed. Not knowing what to pray for, we asked her to tell us a little about herself. She'd lived in Mountain View for more than two years but hoped to move to independent living as soon as she could strengthen her knees. She grabbed our hands when she felt it was time to pray. Never at ease with extemporaneous prayer, I'm not sure my halting attempt met the woman's expectations. Nonetheless, she was very appreciative and invited us to come again.

The next resident had her eyes closed, appeared to be in pain, and didn't say much when we greeted her. With prompting, she told us a bit about the family photos on the wall next to her bed and agreed that she wanted a prayer. Jacque offered a thoughtful, fitting prayer for her.

The third resident was a younger woman who'd suffered a stroke that paralyzed her left side. She clutched her phone as though it were a lifeline but dropped it when we offered the painted rock. That gift brought a smile. Resident No. 4 appeared to be in her 80s and questioned why she was still living. She said that she was ready to die and wished that God would take her. Upon hearing this, I was tongue-tied, but Jacque suggested that the woman's purpose was her granddaughter, whom she'd raised. The young woman frequently visited her grandmother and probably needed her. The resident seemed to accept this. Resident No. 5 could best be described as a fighter. He greeted us from his wheelchair by announcing that his doctors gave him six months to live, but he intended to prove them wrong. He was not ready to die! I tried to sound confident as I offered a prayer that God would give him strength and courage to meet the challenges that awaited him.

As Jacque and I exited Mountain View an hour later, I felt drained, depleted of energy. But at the same time, our visits were deeply satisfying. Those five residents needed us. We did our best to listen and to minister to them as Jesus would ask of us. It was a spiritual experience for me—not something I could do every day but would do again, should St. Mark's schedule another Service Sunday. Thanks to Kathie Barrett and her team for providing this spiritual growth opportunity.

Celeste Pardee



DSW Annual Conference News

The annual meeting of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church is almost upon us! This meeting of both clergy and laity (pastors and church members) will take place June 15-17 in Mesa. St. Mark's will send six lay members plus our pastors and retired pastors. They will worship together, ordain new pastors, and do the business of the larger church. Thanks for your prayers for their work!

If you want to read more, check out this website:
<https://dscumc.org/annual-conference/>

Desert Southwest Annual Conference Mission Projects

Traditionally, at Annual Conference there is an opportunity to support a designated mission through our prayers and our monetary gifts.

The 2023 Annual Conference Mission Project is "Ukraine UMC Support, RIP Medical Debt Relief, and Turkey & Syria Earthquake Relief." If you'd like to know more, follow this link: <https://dscumc.org/mission-project/>. If you decide to support this project, please use the "Donate Here" button at the top of the web page, under the title. It will ask you for your name, etc., as well as the name of your church.

Our Missions Committee does support local, national and international projects. We also support the Desert Southwest Conference through our apportionments. We lift up the Annual Conference Mission Project as an additional way for you to help with an issue that may be tugging at your heart.

Preschool & Summer Camps at St. Mark's Early Childhood Center

For almost 50 years we have been nurturing, educating and enriching children in northwest Tucson – come grow with us!



Summer is coming! There are a few spots left in the Pom/Dance camp and one spot left in the "Ready, Set, Get Wet!" camp.

Registration for fall preschool also is underway! There are some openings in the T/TH classes for 3s and 4s and only a few spots left in the M/W/F 3s class and five-day 4s classes.

Call the ECC office at 520-797-2925 for more information and to sign up today! You can also visit our website at <https://stmarksecc.com>.



United Women in Faith News

United Women in Faith will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 13, in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Refreshments and time for fellowship begin at 9:30 a.m. Our speaker will be Deb William, who is one of two Western Jurisdiction representatives to the Racial Justice Charter Support



United Women in Faith

team, United Women in Faith National. Deb will speak on racial justice. You do not have to be a member to attend; all are welcome. Contact Alberta Farnsworth (see church directory) if you need the Zoom link.

United Women in Faith thanks our church family for all the support we got for our drive-through spaghetti dinner. We received more than \$1,000 to spend for missions to help our community.

I would also like our unit members who helped prepare and serve the meals. Could not have done this without any of you.
YSIC

Clara Campbell, St. Mark's UWF President

Welcome to Canine Companion in Training

You may start to notice a puppy coming to church. This puppy, named Future, is a service dog in training for Canine Companions. On the other end of that puppy's leash is either Sandy or Matt Barker. We have been volunteer puppy raisers with Canine Companions for 19 years and have raised 12 dogs. Future is number 13.



Canine Companions is a national organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained service dogs at no charge to the recipient. Since Canine Companions' founding in

1975, it has provided more than 7,300 service dogs to people with disabilities. There are now six regional training centers that serve people throughout the U.S. If you would like more information on this organization, please visit www.Canine.org.

Future will be with us for about 15 months and could be with Matt or Sandy. He will be wearing a yellow cape and what is called a gentle leader, which goes over his nose (this is not a muzzle, but like a halter for a horse). We know he is awfully cute, but please understand that as a future service dog, there are some rules for interacting with him. Please do not touch or pet him without asking. As he may be a service dog, he needs to learn that attention will not always be focused on him, and therefore, we will have "no pet" days when he is out in public. If he is asleep, please leave him alone, and do not touch or disturb him. Do not feed him any treats or food – he is on a strict diet and not allowed to eat without permission.

We will be sitting in the newly designated "Service Dog" area in the sanctuary, over by the door the choir goes in and out of. We ask that you talk with your children and church guests about Future, and if you have any questions, please ask. Thank you for your support in this endeavor.

Yours in Christ,
Sandy & Matt Barker

Youth Ministry

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



Youth Group Calendar grades 6-12



June 4

June 11



June 18

June 23-July 1



June 25

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!

Summer at St. Mark's



WOOHOO! Summer break! Here at St. Mark's, we don't advance students to the next grade until the fall. This is different from some other spaces, BUT I love it! This means that our seniors can continue to come to Sunday and Sunday School all through July, with our Senior Sendoff being July 30. We have a fun summer planned over at the Wesley House with some Service Sundays, some off-campus adventures, and lots of laughs. Your friends are always welcome to join us – just make sure they have a permission slip! You don't

want to miss it! Have an event you want to try or one that you want to see again? Let Rachel know!

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS - 4PM TO 6PM

ROOM 9 - FRIENDS ALWAYS WELCOME!



NO MEETING JUNE 18
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



JUNE 4
MARIO PARTY NIGHT



JUNE 11
ICE CREAM FIELD TRIP



JUNE 25
POOL PARTY @ PASTOR KIM'S (DETAILS TO COME)

Youth Ministry

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



WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP

National Frozen Yogurt Day

4-6 p.m. June 4

Some holidays just beg to be celebrated. Some of Rachel's personal favorites are National Pie Day, National Pancake Day, National Kindness Day, and National Frozen Yogurt Day! What a delicious holiday! Meet at the Wesley House. We will drive to a frozen yogurt shop and celebrate this special holiday. Bring a friend! All they need is a permission slip (found on the LinkTree)!

Movie Quest

4-6 p.m. June 11

In today's world, efficiency is key. We are all trying to get so much done, aren't we? We could have a movie night. But that's only one movie! That is hardly efficient! Instead, we will have multiple movies going. With one quest. Of course, prizes and popcorn will be there, too. Because no movie quest would be complete without that!

Father's Day

June 18 NO YOUTH

Father's Day is on June 18 this year. We won't have youth group so you can be sure to make dinner for your dad, grandfather, or an uncle! We WILL meet for Sunday School, so don't worry. You will have the chance to hang out in the Wesley House!



Happy Father's Day! Do something nice for Dad!

Pool Party with a Pastor



4-6 p.m. June 25 OFF CAMPUS

What comes before Part B? Part-A!! Get it!?!? While our high school students are away at SSP, our middle school students have the chance to party it up at Pastor Kim's pool with this year's PreTeen students! Be sure to bring your towel and sunscreen!

Come enjoy snacks, sun, friends, and Pastor Kim's refreshing pool. Ms. Spencer is leading this, so be on the lookout for details!

June 6—**Abigail Chester**

June 6—**Kevin Petty**

June 17—**Alice Sanchez**

June 19—**Jade Kogovsek**

June 20—**Lake Laos**

June 23—**Ben Chester**

June 30—**John Wyatt Compton**



THANK YOU

We are so lucky to be a part of such an amazingly supportive congregation! Every time we check, we are closer and closer to our goal. Thank you all for all of your support and prayers.

If you haven't received your paid for stock certificate and would like it, e-mail Rachel

SUMMER YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION

"At the Well"

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

As this Messenger is delivered to your homes, about 15 students from around the South District gathered here at St. Mark's and went out into our community to serve. They ended their day of mission by cooking and serving food for our Soul Station service and assisting in the service. These students represented multiple churches from around the district. What a wonderful group of kids who are taking Christ into the world!

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT



June 23 - July 1 Navajo Nation

This year, St. Mark's is sending 8 students and 2 chaperones to Sierra Service Project on the Navajo Nation. This will be St. Mark's Youth's 37th summer serving with SSP! Our participants will be gone for the last week in June. We appreciate your

prayers as we embark on this exciting journey!

YOUTH 2023

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

Every day we get closer to this trip, I think all of our travelers and get more and more excited! So far, 2,200 people have signed up for this exciting quadrennial youth event! Our students look forward to morning beach communion, a Rend Collective concert, the sensory-friendly worship space, and all the workshops. Whew! We are traveling with more than 100 of our closest friends to Daytona for this awesome experience.

CONDOLENCES

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

- **Betty Dorschner**, who died May 9. Betty was a longtime member of the Chancel Choir and had a passion for music. There will be a memorial service held for Betty at St. Mark's, likely in July.

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



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

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

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

Super Summer Soul Station

Yes, Soul Station will continue through the summer. With Pastor Stuart leaving, Pastor Kim and Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald, a former associate pastor at St. Mark's, will be your team leaders. Let's have some fun as we explore bringing the teachings of Jesus alive in our daily lives. This new season will begin on June 14, same time – 5:30-7 p.m. Instead of a full dinner though, we will have healthy snacks. If you need or want more please bring your own sack supper.

Note: The Zoom room for those attending online will open at 6 p.m., with the service starting at 6:15 p.m. for everyone.

*See you there,
Pastor Kim and Rev. Evy*

Be a Mark-a-ritas Bunco Babe!



The Mark-a-ritas – a group of midlife women who believe it's important to have girlfriends at church, too! – meet at 2 p.m. every other Friday to play bunco, a dice-rolling game that doesn't require much skill but involves a whole lotta luck! It also leaves lots of room for laughing and fellowship. For more information on when and where the next game is happening, contact Mark-a-ritas chair Susan Putt (see church directory).

Reflections

Church Foundations

By the time you're reading this, my family and I will be abroad. We are headed out May 22 for a trip of a lifetime, combining a couple weeks of vacation with our participation in a Wesley Heritage Tour. More than 40 members from St. Paul's and St. Mark's United Methodist churches and beyond will join us for 10 days as we tour sites key to the Methodist movement, experiencing the effects of generations before us. We'll see the rectory in Epworth where John Wesley was raised, as well as visit the Anglican Church his father served there. We'll visit the New Room in Bristol, the first- ever Methodist building, as well as the Chapel Wesley built in London to replace the Foundry as the center of Methodism's mission "to spread Scriptural holiness throughout the land."

But before that, our family will spend a week in and around Paris. Truth be told, we have no concrete plans for our time there. No reservations made, no structure to our time. We have our lists – Kate can't wait to see the Eiffel Tower (though Ron is casting doubt on whether the whole family will make it to the top) and I'm looking forward to the Musay Orsay's impressionist paintings. We want to take a boat tour and of course, try new foods. The kids keep saying they plan to try escargot in France and of course the hot chocolate and croissants.

Among other things, I'm interested in visiting various places of worship. We are planning to visit the Chapel of Saint Chapelle, Westminster Abbey, and Notre Dame (even if just from the outside), and make a day trip to Chartres Cathedral. I've seen the Washington National Cathedral in D.C. and I've seen the Cathedral in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, but neither are as famed or as old as the cathedrals in France.

The history that is evident in these buildings is amazing. They took generations to build, and those who designed and began building them never actually saw the finished results. They laid the foundations and put the work into place, and then never quite saw the completed picture. Even to this day, as we see with Notre Dame, work continues and the building's story isn't finished.

Every church, even our own humble congregation in Northwest Tucson, has a rich history. There are generations before us who laid foundations — both physical stones and missional endeavors. The faithful stewardship of those before us funded the ministries we took part in as children and youth, and we in turn help to support the ministries that support children, youth, or older adults as much as they fund the ministries we are a part of. The committed donation of their time allowed our churches to have clean floors and rooftop gutters, to offer worship and funerals, and to teach vacation bible school and church camp. Talents shared in our churches inspired us to practice piano or guitar, to find our voice to speak in public places, and even to cook. Generations before us have made us who we are, and when we stop and consider that, perhaps we can stand in awe.

So thank you, church, for laying the foundation at St. Mark's for those who will come after us. And thank you, St. Mark's of our yesterdays, for the work that you did to make us who we are today. May we be like the cathedrals, witnesses of God's work in the world for all to see.

See you after our travels are through!
Pastor Lynn