

Messenger

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

Volume 63 No. 9
September 2023

St. Mark's
United Methodist

Soul Station: Come for Dinner, Stay for Prayer

Soul Station Digging Deeper

Feeling stressed by your week? Is your spiritual battery low? Come to Soul Station from 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesdays in the Magee Campus Fellowship Hall. We begin with a meal. The program starts at 6:15 p.m. Come any time before, grab a bite and have food for your body and your soul. Right now, we are exploring how the Beatitudes are blessings for us today, stemming from a recent Sunday sermon.

The Sept. 13 Soul Station will host a special prayer service. Dinner still begins at 5:30, but the service will begin at 6 p.m. Join us as we lift our voices in prayer for our nation, our world and our community using song, scripture and spoken word.

Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

Growth, Fellowship Abound

ALL REGISTRATION IS ONLINE AT <https://umcstmarks.org> then go to "Classes" and 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.)

The merger of two campuses into one St. Mark's has created new growth opportunities for folks from both places!

Bible and a Bite Bring a sack lunch and the latest copy of "The Upper Room" to discuss and break bread together just as Jesus and his disciples broke bread in the upper room. 12:30 p.m. Thursdays at Sanctuary Campus. Chris Shafer, ([call the church office](tel:4082211111)).

Roadrunner Book Study 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Roadrunner Coffee, Linda Vista and Thornydale. What started as a pastor's Bible study has evolved into a book study that reads a little of everything. Participants enjoy terrific fellowship. Email info@umcstmarks.org for info.

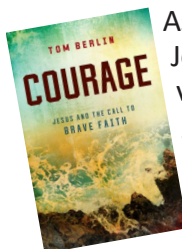
Virtual Coffee Chat 10-11 a.m. Thursdays via Zoom. Bring your favorite drink and a snack and join this free-flowing conversation. Contact Office Manager Lora Wineinger for the Zoom link: lora@umcstmarks.org via Zoom.

Theo (Theology) Pub meets at a local restaurant for dinner and conversation around life and faith ideas in a welcoming and inclusive setting. All views entertained with respect. 6 p.m. fourth Wednesday of each month; location varies. For more information, contact Pastor Kevin, kevin@umcstmarks.org.

Psalms: A Study by Douglas Sean O'Donnell. This 6-week study of Psalms will "help readers know and understand the meaning, the message, and the God of the Bible." Each weekly study unit presents several selected texts to explore. Class discussion centers around some basic questions, and lastly, the class allows time for personal reflection and application. Each participant needs to read and complete Chapter 1 before the first class. Books have been purchased ahead and may be obtained from the church office during regular hours. Also, there is homework each week (but not too much).

This study about the Psalms is designed as a 12-week course that will be scheduled as two separate 6-week sessions. Interested participants may attend one 6-week session or the entire 12-week study. The first session will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 11 – Oct. 16 at the Barnes & Noble Café in the former Foothills Mall. The second session will begin in early January. Led by Marlyce Wright.

Adult Sunday School - Courage: A Study by Tom Berlin.



As Christians, we do our best to live our lives as Jesus lived, following the examples of his many virtues – including honesty, faithfulness, and generosity. But one often overlooked virtue is courage. Throughout Jesus' life, he was called upon to be brave and, by his example, we can begin to understand what true courage is.

(Continued on page 3)

Meet Office Manager Lora Wineinger

By Jeff Dimond

With the merger between St. Mark's and Sanctuary UMCs has come the addition of Lora Wineinger as office manager – a position that has been open since May. For those who have not had the distinct pleasure of meeting and speaking to her, you've missed a treat.



Lora became the first secretary/office manager for Sanctuary in January 2009 and regards her opportunity to work at the merged church as the best of both worlds.

"I get paid to work in a wonderful atmosphere and tell our volunteers how much they are appreciated," she said. "I believe it is important to tell all of our volunteers."

Lora is a Tucson native and attended Rincon HS and Pima College. She and her husband, Scott – also a Tucson native – have been married for 37 years and have two daughters, Megan and Michelle, and a son, Matthew. Megan has added to the family tree with a son, Cole, and daughter, Abby. (Those who attended the combined St. Mark's services this summer will recognize Matthew as the terrific drummer who accompanies the Praise Band.)

Scott is a mobile notary. The two met when Lora returned to Tucson after working in California. While Lora held a few part-time jobs – including valet parking at the dog track – and planned to relocate to Alaska, some friends convinced her to socialize with the manager of a local pizza restaurant. With "nothing better to do" she started answering phones at the pizza place where Scott was the manager. A romance bloomed.

Truly, Lora's ability to instantly make friends and be a positive influence has made her an instant success at St. Mark's and a welcome addition to the Magee Campus staff. Take time to introduce yourself to her. We can guarantee an amazing experience awaits.

Fall Office Hours Begin Sept. 5

As of Tuesday, Sept. 5, church office hours will be

- Mon-Thur 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Friday 9 a.m. to noon



There is no need to ring the doorbell during office hours. Just come on in! If you need to come to the office outside these hours, please call 520-297-2062 to schedule a time.

Other Office Odds 'n' Ends

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

To submit an item for the Sunday bulletin, use bulletin@umcstmarks.org. Staff will determine which items go in the weekly e-blast.

Submissions for the monthly *Messenger* newsletter should go to messenger@umcstmarks.org.

Direct general inquiries to info@umcstmarks.org.

United Women in Faith Drive-Thru Spaghetti Dinner

St. Mark's United Women in Faith will hold our Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, Oct. 6, from 4 to 7 p.m.

We will provide a delicious meal of spaghetti and meatballs, roll, salad and cookies. A vegetarian option will be available. Just drive into the Magee Campus south parking lot on Oct. 6 to pick up your meal without leaving your car. A donation of \$9 per meal will be used by UWF to support missions in Tucson and around the world.

Preorder forms will be available through the below link, in the church office, at a courtyard table on Sundays, Sept. 24 and Oct. 1, or just come to the south parking lot on Oct. 6 and order and pick up your meal.

Preorder here:

<https://tinyurl.com/SMUMCSpaghettiOct>



United Women in Faith September Meeting



United Women in Faith

St. Mark's United Women in Faith will meet Tuesday, Sept. 12, beginning at 10 a.m. in Magee Campus Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Light refreshments will be available starting at 9:30. Our planned speaker is not available, so our actual program information will be provided in the Sunday bulletin on Sept. 10.

All women are invited. You don't have to be a member of St. Mark's or any church to come. Questions? Need a ride? Contact President Clara Campbell (see church directory). For the Zoom link, contact Secretary Kay Hayworth (see church directory).

Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

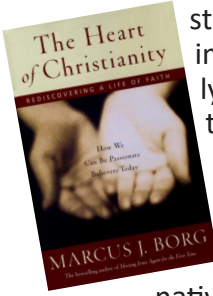
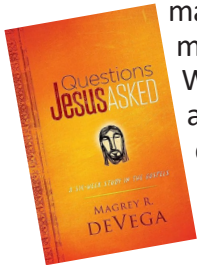
This 6-week study challenges us to unlock the courage we already possess as Christ followers and begin to find the remarkable life Jesus offers us. 9:30 to 11 a.m. Sundays in Room 17/18 and by Zoom. It began Aug. 27, but it's not too late to join! Please register to obtain Zoom connection information. Led by Rick Farnsworth and Carl Harrison.

Seekers Bible Study – Book of Revelation. Meets at 11:15 a.m. Sundays in Room 17/18 and by Zoom and will begin studying the book of Revelation on Sept. 10. In addition to the Bible, the class will use the study book *Breaking the Code* by Bruce Metzger. Please obtain this book from your favorite resource before the study begins. Led by Brenda Hunter and Kelly Deyoe.

Wednesday Morning Study – Questions Jesus Asked: A Study by Magrey de Vega. Jesus is fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am? Asking these and other questions takes courage. Not only do they reveal what Jesus really cares about, they open a window into our hearts. We all have questions for God, but growth happens when we turn things around and ask what Jesus wants to know about us. This 6-week study is 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays in Room 17/18 and by Zoom, beginning Sept. 6. Please register to obtain Zoom connection information. Purchasing a study book is optional. Led by Marcia Rostad.

Coming in October! The Heart of Christianity – by Marcus Borg Professor, lecturer, and world-renowned author Marcus J. Borg asked his "unchurched" university students to write a short essay about their impressions of Christianity. They consistently used five adjectives to describe Christian believers: "literalistic, anti-intellectual, self-righteous, judgmental, and bigoted." Borg, a passionate believer in living the life of faith, wanted to change the students' views and offer them a progressive alternative view of what the Christian life can be.

The Heart of Christianity was the result of Borg's work. This book argues that the essential ingredients of a Christian life—faith, being born again, the kingdom of God, the gospel of love—are as vitally important today as they have always been, even during this time of conflict and change in the church. St. Mark's will offer this six-session study, led by former adult education coordinator Linda Walker, beginning mid-October.



Open Minds Book Group Fall Lineup

This St. Mark's book discussion group will resume monthly meetings this month. We meet via Zoom on a Friday in the latter half of each month from 9 – 10:30 a.m. New members are welcome! Books may be borrowed from the Pima County Library or purchased from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, bookshop.org or independent bookshops. Co-leaders Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban are excited to present the fall lineup:

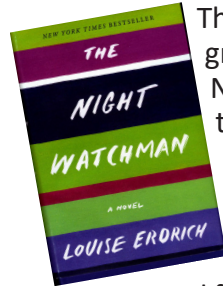
Sept. 22: Welcoming the Stranger, by Matthew Soerens and Jenny Yang (updated edition, 2018). Immigration is one of the most complicated and controversial issues of our time. Christians find themselves torn between a desire to uphold laws and a call to minister to the vulnerable. Soerens and Yang offer a sensible Christian response to immigration. They put a human face on the issue by sharing stories of immigrants' experiences in and out of the legal system. With thoughtful analysis, they suggest immigration policy reform that is compassionate and just—a way for us to welcome and assist our immigrant neighbors.



Oct. 20: Just Like Us: The True Story of Four Mexican Girls Coming of Age in America, by Helen Thorpe (updated edition, 2011). Thorpe introduces us to four teenagers in Denver, CO, preparing for their senior prom. They are bright, ambitious, excellent students. All four dream of college and professional careers, but two don't have a green card or Social Security number because their parents brought them across the border illegally. Their two friends are legal—one was born in the U.S., and the other has a green card. Each girl views the others as her equals, yet the world does not treat them that way. This is a story of girlhood, friendship, and identity—what it means to fake or steal an identity, or to inherit an identity from one's parents and country.



Nov. 17: The Night Watchman, by Louise Erdrich (2020). This novel is based on the life of Erdrich's grandfather, who carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota to Washington, D.C.



Dec. 15: The Book of Lost Names, by Kristin Harmel (2020). Inspired by true events, this historical novel follows Eva, a graduate student who leaves Paris in 1942 after the Nazis arrest her father, a Polish Jew. Finding refuge in a small town in the free zone, she helps the Resistance by forging identity documents for Jewish children fleeing to Switzerland. But erasing people comes with a price, so Eva finds a way to preserve the real names of the children who are too young to remember their true identity.





Church & Society

Latin/Hispanic Heritage Month is Sept. 15 to Oct. 15

"In the early 1960s, Latin American Methodist churches were 'encouraged' and even pressed to become autonomous affiliated churches. As a result, critical connections with Latin American Methodist churches and Caribbean Methodist churches were ... disconnected from the United Methodist Church. As Methodist immigrants come to America, they may well have a sense of disconnect with the United Methodist Church. Hispanics/Latinos may have a strong identification with the values and positions of the Methodist Church of their native countries but not necessarily with the United Methodist Church in the United States, which may not have the same social issues as their church of origin." – "Church must hear Hispanic/Latino voices," Rev. David Maldonado, 11/24/2020. To learn more visit the link below:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/church-must-hear-hispanic-latino-voices>

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Please come to Education Town Hall

Are you concerned about our public education system? Funding, class size, curriculum, inclusion? If so, please take part in a public forum addressing these issues sponsored by Save Our Schools, Children's Action Alliance, Amphitheater Public Schools, and Pima County Interfaith. Local panelists will include Dan Streeter, Marana District Superintendent; Nancy Gutierrez, a TUSD teacher and state legislator; and Ricky Hernandez, CFO of TUSD. We have also recruited Karen McLaughlin, budget director of the Arizona Center for Economic Progress, and Nicky Indicavitch from Save our Schools to serve on the panel. This important discussion is free and open to the public, but registration is requested using the link or QR code below. Contact Judy Boroto, ([see church directory](#)), for additional information.

When: Saturday, Sept. 9, 1–3 p.m.

Where: Amphitheater High School, Panther Hall - 125 W. Yavapai Road

Registration: https://secure.ngpvan.com/6LxGC9oQN0yn-HO9ldC7p_w2



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August 15, Day 227 of 2023

	As of 08/15	As of 07/15
So Far This Year in the U.S.:		
Mass Shooting Incidents (4 or more victims killed/wounded in each)	448	382
Children (0-11) killed by gunfire	191	154
Teens (12-17) killed by gunfire	939	825
All Youth (0-17) injured by gunfire	3084	2610
Unintentional Shootings	1030	892

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

Has anything changed?

In December 2012, young students at Sandy Hook Elementary School lost 20 of their classmates in a mass shooting. As the survivors come to the end of their teen years, many are still missing best friends, carrying survivor guilt, remaining on high alert, and trying to get on with their lives. Some are actively involved in efforts to make the future better and safer for all children. You can support their work by exploring the Sandy Hook Promise website, "Sandy Hook Promise — Preventing Gun Violence Before it Happens."

'Food With Friends' is Coming!

Using a similar concept to our old "Dinner for 8" program, Food With Friends launches in October, with registration beginning Sunday, Sept. 3 and running through Sunday, Sept. 17. Group assignments of 6-8 people will be made by Sept. 24, and dinners should be scheduled between October and December, with a final meeting no later than Dec. 10.



Each group is encouraged to meet one to two times per month, with participants taking turns serving as hosts. The group will create its own schedule for who hosts and on what dates.

Food is flexible! Groups can choose to meet in each other's home or at a restaurant. A host may plan a main meal at their home and have participants bring sides and/or dessert.

It's a great way to meet and get to know your fellow church family, or catch up with those you already know!

Register at
<https://umcstmarks.breezechms.com/form/0a2821>
Or use the QR code above.

Exploring:

What Makes a Methodist?
Our Methodist Roots
St. Mark's History & Culture
Organizational Structure
Membership



Join Pastor Lynn and Tricia

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23,
in the Magee Campus Library.

Our time begins with a 20-30-minute
walking tour, so if you prefer to skip that,
please come at 9:30.

Please direct your questions and RSVPs to
Tricia@umcstmarks.org

Nash Neighbors Volunteer Opportunities

By Carol Cecilia, Nash Neighbors chair

First, we thank our generous congregation for all your donations of back-to-school supplies! The need to help the classroom teachers prepare for the upcoming school year remains great and as we all know school supplies are not inexpensive.

I remind everyone of the volunteer opportunities that exist through Nash Neighbors with EC Nash Elementary School. 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the partnership between Nash and St. Mark's. There are several opportunities to get involved and support this missions effort.

School Market – In conjunction with the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, St. Mark's supplies and staffs a food pantry once each month during the school year. The food bank delivers the food items and volunteers arrange all of them into a "pantry style" configuration in the Nash multipurpose room and help distribute them. The time commitment is 3-4 hours and only once per month!

Classroom Volunteer – Teachers not only need supplies but could also use another pair of hands. This is a great opportunity to partner with a grade-level teacher and design a schedule that works for both of you.

Nash Neighbors Committee – This committee meets only quarterly and works with the Nash teachers, administrators, and staff to support existing programs and look for new ways to be of service.

Thanks again for your continued support of this ministry, and if one of the above opportunities appeals to you, please let me know. I can be reached at (see church directory).

Make Time for Financial Planning Seminar

By Renee Carrasco, Endowment Committee chair

The Endowment Committee will be hosting another financial planning seminar this fall. Paul Willman, a local attorney and longtime member of St. Mark's, will be our presenter. The seminar date is Sunday, Oct. 1 at 11 a.m. in the Magee Campus Fellowship Hall. This event will provide information on health and financial decision-making when you cannot do it. When you plan ahead, what documents do you need? When you or your loved one does not plan ahead, what process should you take? Additionally, essential estate planning on wills and trusts will be discussed. The session is approximately 1 hour for the information, including time for questions and answers. Most of all, the event is FREE. How often is information from an attorney free??

You do not want to miss out on receiving this valuable information!!

Save Your Blood Donations for Our Blood Drive!

By Cheri Schwartz

Our blood drive is back! The American Red Cross has scheduled us, and our St. Mark's Magee Campus is confirmed for a Sunday, Dec. 3 blood drive. Each donated pint of whole blood can save up to 3 lives! If you are donating on a regular schedule, "ARC" requires 56 days between donations. If you wish to donate at St. Mark's Magee Campus, please stop donating elsewhere, no later than Oct. 7 for our Dec. 3 blood drive. More information will be forthcoming as this opportunity takes shape.

Share life
Give blood



Animal Ministry News: Blessing, Rummage Sale

By Jan Walker, Animal Ministry Committee chair

The Animal Ministry team is excited to bring you the 11th annual St. Mark's Blessing of the Animals. The service will be held on Sunday, Oct. 8 at 3 p.m. on the Meditation Gardens labyrinth. As always, this event is open to members of the community, so be sure to invite friends and family!

Those who don't feel their pet is suited to attending are welcome to bring a photo instead. All pets should be on leashes, in carriers, or the equivalent.

A freewill offering will be taken for the Maui Humane Society. The Hawaiian islands are grappling with the catastrophic impact of the Maui and Lahaina fires that have left thousands of humans and animals displaced, creating an urgent need for donations.

In addition, from 7 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 28, Animal Ministry is hosting a Rummage to the Rescues. This is a rummage sale in our south parking lot for a number of local animal rescues. This provides an opportunity for the rescues to join together for an event that attracts a large number of customers. Please come out and shop!

Tour Tu Nidito with Missions

A reminder to all that our meetings are now on the First Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining us please contact Mary Beth Barone. We have combined Sanctuary and Magee campuses into a single entity as yet to be determined what it will look like. We also sent our annual donation to Tu Nidito in August and have been invited for a tour of their facilities. If anyone is interested please contact Mary Beth.

The Missions Committee voted to send UMCOR \$5000 for Maui after the fire and devastation. We send our prayers and good wishes to the survivors of this terrible tragedy.

Mary Beth Barone, Missions Committee Chair

Food Collection Continues for ICS

As you already know, we are the winners of the Interfaith Community Services Peanut Butter Trophy, the third year in a row. Macaroni and cheese is the featured food donation item for September. Macaroni and cheese is a great item to donate to food banks: Everyone loves it, it does not require refrigeration, clients usually do not get it in their baskets, and it is not expensive to buy. Every box we donate will be a box that food bank clients would not otherwise receive. You can bring your donations of macaroni and cheese or other nonperishable food items between 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays and Saturdays to the Magee Campus north parking lot, or drop them off in the church office during its business hours.



Sign Up to Cook for Primavera Men's Shelter

Volunteers again served up dinner the second Saturday of the month for the 60+ men at Primavera Men's Shelter who applauded their efforts and loved the food. A big thanks to Jim, Tom, Byron and Dee for their effort. 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).



More volunteers went to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona Aug. 19 and packed 36,000 lbs. of food, filling 1,016 boxes for those in need! What a lot of hard work and effort!



A Tucson Refugee Ministries volunteer from St. Mark's, **Carol Edwards**, received a SHOUT OUT! for her efforts. What they said: "Carol is one of our longtime and cherished youth outreach volunteers. Every year at International Kids Camp she plans and leads our story time and skits and writes a fun song for the campers to sing along to. We are so grateful for her and all she does to impact the lives of refugee children in our community."

TMM: Know What the Initials Stand For?

Founded in 1974, TMM was known as Tucson Metropolitan Ministries. It is now TMM Family Services. By encouraging faith and self-determination, TMM provides quality affordable transitional housing for single mothers, their children, and veterans and seniors.

Several programs contribute to these goals.

1. Family Journey is a two-year transitional program for mothers to work toward independence.
2. The ReStore and Community Closet recycle and sell affordable building materials, appliances, furnishings, clothes and bedding.

3. ReStore has a FREE pickup for large items in good condition.
4. The Whole Rehab Program repairs homeowners' houses to make them safe for living.

TMM has many volunteer opportunities. They could use help to answer phones, work at the Community Closet, and plan and conduct activities for children, seniors and veterans. Visit <https://tmmfs.org> for more information and volunteer opportunities. (Our own Alberta Farnsworth is TMM's chair of the board!)

TMM is making a difference in our community.

Youth Ministry

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



Youth Group Calendar



Sep 3

Sep 10



Sep 17

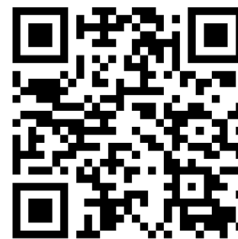
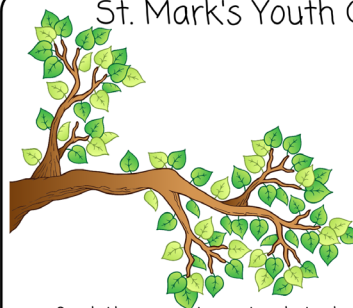
Sep 17



Sep 24



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!



United: A Ministry for 4th-7th Grade Students

Being a kid is tough. There is a lot going on! On Aug. 27, we launched a super fun new program for students in 4th-7th grades. We got to know each other and traveled up to Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Ranch to feed some fun animals and bond and grow. We

talked about God's awesome creation and how we get to help create something, too. We had so much fun. You don't want to miss the next one; join us in November for our Friendsgiving!



Our New (to us!) Meeting Space

Shortly after we learned about the fire at the Wesley House we had a great discussion about mourning our space as we know it and dreaming up what we can take with us to the new space. Before the next week, something amazing happened! The amazing Sunday School teachers for Pre-school-5th grade graciously let us use the space in Magee Campus Room 8/9 and the transformation was so fun to see! If you haven't yet checked it out, come by on Sunday! You'll love the paper bench, the fun couches, and the colorful stools. Plus our same amazing group, of course.

Youth Ministry

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



WHAT'S COMING UP

Labor Day Holiday - No Youth Group

Sept. 3

Here at St. Mark's, we love getting together every Sunday! But we also know that family time is so important. When we have a school holiday, a three day weekend, we don't meet that Sunday, so you can have some extra family time! Enjoy your day with your family! Don't worry, we still have Sunday School! See you Sunday morning at 10!

An Un-Birthday Party

4-6 p.m. Sept. 10, Youth Room at Magee Campus (Rm 8/9)

A very merry un-birthday...to YOU! Why should we only be celebrated on ONE day each year, when there are 364 more days this year!? Come have a crazy un-birthday party on September 10. I bet there will be cake.

Lights, Camera, ACTION! Youth 2023 Participants

By Sept. 10

Did you attend Youth 2023?? Please send Rachel a video of what you loved about the experience. Be sure you mention parts of the actual conference...workshops, worship, meeting people from around the country...all of it! We will be putting together a great video for the congregation to view at the Thank you BBQ.

THANK YOU BBQ

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 17

This congregation is so amazing. The love and support for the youth of St. Mark's is just fantastic. We want to tell the people who supported our trip to Youth 2023 thank you, and tell them about our amazing trip to Youth 2023! Please plan to stay after service/Sunday School on Sept. 17 to serve lunch and chat with these amazing people.

~~World~~ St. Mark's Records Night

4-6 p.m. Sept. 24, Youth Room at Magee Campus

Back in 2021, many records were set in the living room of the Wesley House. Eli bounced a balloon on top of his head for over a minute, Landon successfully flipped a water bottle (blindfolded) 6 times, Ben built a domino tower 26 high with only one had, Charlotte hula-hooped an astounding 42 times, AND MORE! Think you have what it takes to set a new record!? I think you do. We will see you on Sept. 24 in Room 8/9 to set some new records!

SPECIAL EVENTS

SOUTH DISTRICT YOUTH MINISTRY

2023-2024 Connections



The United Methodist Church is a connectional church. That's a weird word. Like.... not super weird...but not one you hear every day, amiright? The cool thing about being a part of a connectional church is that you are part of something BIG. This year, the South District has some really fun events planned. We just had

an awesome lock-in at Defy and are looking forward to a Dodgeball tournament, GooseChase, winter camp, the second Wesley Cup, and being in mission together! Our district theme this year is "Connection" and we are focusing on Micah 6:8 - Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly. Come learn and grow in fellowship and fun!

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT 2024

Summer 2024, Location TBD

What? It's only September. Why are we already talking about NEXT summer!? We just got back! In the next Messenger, you will find information for next summer and an opportunity to participate in a poll for us to request which week and which site we would like for Sierra Service Project! It's never too soon to be planning ahead; I hope many of you will join us for this awesome adventure!



September Youth Birthdays

Sept. 2—**Lila Witherspoon**

Sept. 3—**Lucy Newell**

Sept. 11—**Charlotte Chester**



Finance Committee News

By Don Brown

This summer the Finance Committee welcomed John Wilkinson and Lora Wineinger from the Sanctuary Campus to the committee.

The June Treasurers Report showed income of \$77,708 and expenses of \$86,559.90 for a deficit of \$8,791.90.

This leaves us with a year-to-date deficit of \$23,502.08. This is less than the budget deficit expected which is \$57,006.

The June Balance Sheet Bookkeeper Lois Britton indicated that there would be three new accounts added to the balance sheet from the Sanctuary Campus.

She said she was comfortable with the Canyon Community Sweep account balance of \$148,885.11. Recently, over \$252,207.09 that was invested at Canyon Community Bank, was transferred to the Republic Bank of Chicago and the Alliance Bank. These accounts will provide interest on the balance and ensure that all funds are FDIC-insured.

After transfer of the Easter Offering of about \$13,000, the youth fund ended June with a balance of \$11,632.18. The Logo Products negative balance of \$695.62 reflects inventory that has not yet been sold.

Potential Savings Possible Due to the merger St. Mark's will, in the second half of 2023, have higher income due to the combination of church offerings. It will also possibly allow us to save: First, both campuses will have three pastors versus the four we had in 2022; second, the lease agreement with the landlord at the Sanctuary Campus was renegotiated saving \$20,000 over the next year of the lease agreement (The savings to the church realized from the lease negotiations only apply to this year. Next year we will be again paying the full amount of the lease payment.); third, after Pastor Lynn's discussion with the Conference, it was determined that the Sanctuary Campus will no longer have to pay apportionments. There may also be further savings. They should be more apparent over the next few months.

Combination of the Budgets for Both Campuses Discussions were convened on how to combine the budgets, databases and accounts for both campuses by Lois Britton, Lora Wineinger, and Sarah Dimond, it was decided to keep these all separate until the end of 2023. A new budget for 2024 that would encompass both campuses would then be started. It is also going to take time to work out what databases work best. The accounts would be the smaller problem since both campuses use Canyon Bank.

Finance Committee Meeting Date Change

Due to the difficulty in getting the financial reports completed by the second week of the month, our Finance Committee meeting dates are now the third Wednesday of the month.

Stewardship Campaign

A subcommittee has started meeting to plan the annual stewardship drive that will begin later this fall. We are now calling it a Generosity Campaign.

Miscellaneous ...

Coffee with the Pastor

Get some "face time" with Lead Pastor Lynn Bartlow from 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14 at the Barnes & Noble Cafe at the former Foothills Mall. Come with questions or issues or just to be social!



Plan to attend Vision Summit 6-9 p.m. Sept. 26 Ministry Architects will be on Magee Campus to lead us in a vision summit this month. Who are we? What are our priorities in ministry? Who are we trying to reach? What does our future look like? Join our consultant from Ministry Architects for an intense three hour work session. Look for the RSVP so we know you're coming and have dinner ready for you. Not interested in three hours or out of town? A questionnaire will be available ahead of time for everyone who wants to submit an answer.

#Be.

In worship this month, we are focusing on the invitation of Jesus to follow him. How are we called to be disciples? How can we be followers of Jesus, as Jesus invited us to be? Join us in worship as we unpack the rest of the Sermon on the Mount. Feel free to read and meditate on Matthew chapters five through seven. Our choirs have begun, our modern service has kicked off on the Sanctuary Campus... there's a seat ready for you in worship this week!

Church Conference

Mark your calendar: Church Conference led by District Superintendent, Rev. Matt Ashley
Monday, Oct.30 at 7 p.m. in the Magee sanctuary

JUST BREATHE YOGA



IS FOR EVERYBODY

9:15 a.m. Fridays

Magee Campus Fellowship Hall

tinyurl.com/JustBreatheRSVP

Renovation Team Update

The Renovation has kept busy during the summer. A **Small Group** directory has been prepared. It includes a brief description of the activities and contact information. The list will be ready for distribution shortly. **Technology needs**, both hardware and software are under review. A variety of issues have been identified. Development of a **Facilities Maintenance Calendar** is on hold while Trustees review their existing handbook. A study on **Demographics** is in process. This study will assist church leadership with community outreach. Initial indications are that the community needs support for special needs families, single fathers, and younger families. Support could be in the form of workshops, support groups, and possibly onsite counselors.

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

Your Renovation Team:

*Sarah Dimond
Diane Hiratsuka*

*Maryann Nuckolls
Bill Zermuehlen*

Linda Martino

Time to Register for 2023 Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

Inspired by Trevor Hudson's book, "A Mile in My Shoes," this year the spiritual journey, "A Mile in My Shoes: Immigration and the Bible," will include two days of physical journeys – to nearby migrant shelters, to Mexico, to the Tohono O'odham Nation, to the desert where lives are lost in pursuit of the American Dream.



This year's Five-Day Academy, taking place Oct. 22-27, will seem both familiar and very different at the same time, as we gather at Redemptorist Renewal Center, worship, pray, and honor the silence, and then spread out to engage with one of the greatest issues of our day. Immigration challenges us to think about the world of haves and have-nots, about the inclinations within ourselves to nationalism and internationalism, to the contrast between racism and inclusivity.

For Annual Conference, Jerry Haas was asked to develop a video describing this year's 5-Day Academy. Here is the link for that:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ndwq9cckOFc>

The registration link for the Five-Day Academy is:

<https://dscumc.org/arizona-five-day-academy/>

Scholarship monies are available. Please contact Judy Boroto for more information at ([see church directory](#)).

The On Your Mark's Walking Group will resume when Cheri Schwartz's fractured foot heals.

Stay tuned for details.



Francis Hydock presents a check Aug. 7 from St. Mark's Veterans Committee donations to Kimmy Kamerer at the Tucson VA Hospital.

The Veterans Committee meets at 8:30 a.m. the fourth Friday of the month at Coco's at Oracle and Ina to eat breakfast with other people from St. Mark's who have served or are serving in the armed forces.

Thank You from the St. Mark's Youth

THANK YOU!!

The youth of St. Mark's are so incredibly lucky to have the love and support of this congregation. We extend a huge thank you! Thank you for all you did to support our participation in Youth 2023!! If you supported us in any way, whether it was financially, with your prayers, or in any way you did, we would love to tell you thank you and share our experiences with you. We invite you to join us on the Magee Campus at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 17 for a Thank You BBQ lunch! Come see and hear about the great experiences our youth had, thanks to your support. See you there!

PRAYER CORNER

We are a praying community at St. Mark's. You may submit prayer requests by email to prayerchain@umcstmarks.org or on our website at <https://umcstmarks.org/prayer-request>.

Dave Camp
Jo Carter
Tom and Holly Celmer
Phyllis Dirksen

April DuBoce
Ron Hill
Maryann Nuckolls
Pastor Kim Ogle

Sallie Schmidt
Vernon and Shirley Stedronsky
Rev. Laszlo Vega
Anne Wiggins

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
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 Julie & 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
Sanctuary Campus**
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Magee Campus
1431 W. Magee Road
Tucson, AZ 85704
(520) 297-2062

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

Lead Pastor:
Rev. Lynn Bartlow

Sanctuary Campus Pastor:
Rev. Kevin Lester

Associate Pastor:
Kim Ogle

Sunday Worship
Magee Campus
8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Sanctuary Campus
10 a.m.

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

St. Mark's UMC Concert Series Returns Sept. 24

By Jordan Shomper,
Music Ministries Coordinator

We're thrilled to announce the return of the St. Mark's Concert Series! After our summer break, we're back to fill your Sundays with enchanting melodies and incredible performances from talented musicians in the Tucson community.

Join us in the Magee Campus sanctuary on Sundays at 3 p.m. as we celebrate the power of music to our community together. Our concert series is always free and open to the public, showcasing the diverse musical talents of our community. From sacred to secular, choral ensembles to rock bands, there's something for everyone to enjoy, so please bring your friends!!

We're looking forward to kicking off with Mariachi Valenzuela on Sept. 24 at 3 p.m.! For the full lineup of concerts and featured musicians, be sure to check out our brochure and visit our website. We can't wait to share these unforgettable musical moments with you!



Reflections

My doctor told me I need to exercise. I was having back pain, and after x-rays and a consultation, she told me exercise was the answer. I joined the Aquaplex there in Flagstaff and began taking classes to find one I liked. I don't exercise well on my own. I find excuses, I get distracted, I question whether or not I'm doing it right. If I don't have a class on my schedule, I don't make it a priority. So the Aquaplex was the answer. I practiced yoga four days a week with The Best yoga instructor ever, and life was good.

It's been hard to find that perfect solution since I've moved to Tucson. Because I live and work on separate sides of town, it's hard to find a gym or yoga studio that fits my needs. Finally, after two years, I found a class I don't hate at the YMCA here on the east side of town. It's an aerobics class that is different every week, with upbeat music and an energetic but not too energetic teacher who has a sense of humor and pushes us to do better.

Exercise is important for my body. If I don't move it, I hurt. If I don't move it, I gain weight. If I don't move it, I don't feel well. It's easy to put it off, to sleep that extra 30 minutes instead of getting up. I find when I don't exercise, my body lets me know.

Just as exercise is important for our bodies, spiritual exercises are important, too. The spiritual disciplines of prayer, worship, study, silence, giving, and fasting are all exercises for our relationship with God. Some of them are best done alone, but others can't be effective alone, much like my attempts to exercise alone. We need the accountability, the wisdom, the community that comes from being together.

In this month, you have the opportunity to exercise your spiritual discipline. Come to worship—three choices on two campuses, plus our midweek gathering at Soul Station. Come pray with others—a prayer service on Sept. 13 or join the Prayer Team. Come study with others—there are book studies and small group opportunities that are just starting up. You can always use the prayer room or the Magee Campus sanctuary during the week for silence and reflection (just come to the church office for a key). You can even exercise your body and spirit together in Just Breathe Yoga, in the Magee Campus Fellowship Hall on Fridays!

I encourage you to get into the habit of exercising your body AND your spirit! Let us know if we can help!
See you soon,
Pastor Lynn

