

Messenger

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

Volume 63 No. 11
November 2023



New Mission Statement, Stated Values, Goals

At the end of September, Ministry Architects conducted a two-day Vision Summit with many of our church leaders and members of the St. Mark's congregation. At the end of this time together, after much spirited discussion and brainstorming, we emerged with a new Mission Statement, a set of Ministry Values, and some goals to guide us into the future. We approved them at the Oct. 30 Church Conference. Here they are!

Mission Statement We gather, connect, and serve so all may experience the love of Christ.

Ministry Values

Loving: We actively love Christ and our neighbors as we worship, learn, and play together.

Serving: We serve our church family, our neighbors, and the world with our time, energy, and prayers.

Giving: We support our church family and our neighbors with abundant generosity

Embracing Diversity: We celebrate the variety of God's creation and learn from each other as we follow Christ.

Three-year Revolving Goals

These are written in past tense for three years from now. Each goal should have clear measurements of success so that yearly benchmarks can also be determined. Each goal is then reviewed every year around the anniversary of its initial creation.

2026 Goal: By October 2026, St. Mark's UMC will create a culture of innovative ministry that leads to 1,500 new meaningful connections with visitors who have connected with the church in some way. This is accomplished through interactions that leave the visitor feeling comfortable enough to give their contact information.

2026 Goal: St. Mark's will offer opportunities to engage in worship onsite and in the community. These will be offered through a variety of days, times, and styles. (i.e. youth led, pet friendly, sensory accessible) Through this, we will increase weekly worship attendance to 1,000 on average.

2026 Goal: By October 2026, 1,000 people will have participated in a connectional group at St. Marks over the past three years.

2026 Goal: By October 2026, St. Mark's will provide avenues to serve in mission, frequently in partnership with other agencies, adapting to a variety of abilities and skills in which 1,000 participate annually.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, Nov. 22

5:30 p.m. Light dinner in Fellowship Hall (RSVP to office)

6:30 p.m. Service in Magee Campus sanctuary

The 2023 Thanksgiving special offering
will be divided between
the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Charitable Organization (25%) and
the Tucson Refugee Ministry (75%).

All are invited to the Magee Campus for a
Thanksgiving Day Potluck. Details inside!

EXPERIENCING CHRISTMAS

This Advent, our theme is "Experiencing Christmas" and we will study the season through our senses:

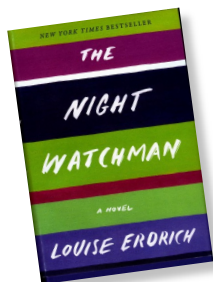
- ♦ **Nov. 26:** "Do you see what I see?"
- ♦ **Dec. 3:** "Do you hear what I hear?"
- ♦ **Dec. 10:** "Do you taste what I taste?"
- ♦ **Dec. 17:** "Do you feel what I feel?"
- ♦ **Dec. 24—**Five Christmas Eve services at Magee and three services at Sanctuary
- ♦ Keep an eye out for more details!



Adult Spiritual Growth

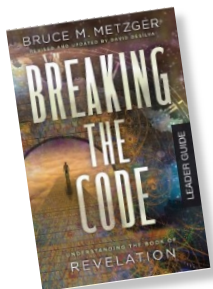
Faith is a journey!

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 Magee Campus patio Sunday mornings. Please pre-register and acquire books from your favorite resource. ([Bookshop.org](https://bookshop.org) supports local bookstores.)



Open Minds Book Group This book discussion group meets via Zoom on a Friday in the latter half of each month from 9-10:30 a.m. New members are welcome! Please register online to obtain the Zoom link. Led by Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban. We invite you to join us Nov. 17 to share your reflections on Louise Erdrich's *The Night Watchman*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel chosen in honor of Native American Heritage Month. 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. The main character is a Chippewa council member who works as a night watchman at a factory near the Turtle Mountain Reservation. He is concerned about the consequences of a 1953 "emancipation" bill on its way to the U.S. Congress that will terminate the rights of Native Americans to their land and culture. How can the government abandon treaties made in good faith with the Chippewas "for as long as the grasses shall grow?" Erdrich weaves a story with characters who grapple with the worst and best impulses of human nature.

Adult Sunday School - The Gospel of Mark by Amy-Jill Levine. 9:30 a.m. Sundays in Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Please register online or contact a study leader to obtain Zoom connection information. Led by Rick Farnsworth and Carl Harrison.

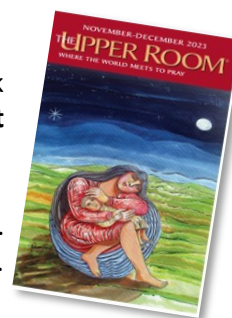


Seekers Sunday Bible Study – Book of Revelation. 11:15 a.m. Sundays in Room 17/18 and by Zoom. In addition to the Bible, the class is using the study book *Breaking the Code* by Bruce Metzger. Please obtain this book from your favorite resource. Please register online or contact a study leader to obtain Zoom connection information. Led by Brenda Hunter and Kelly Deyoe.

Wednesday Morning Study - 10-11:30 a.m. in Room 17/18 and by Zoom. A series of book studies, each usually lasting about six weeks. Please pre-register to obtain Zoom connection info if you are new. Led by Marcia Rostad. Beginning Advent study Nov. 29.

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, cshafer81@gmail.com.

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



Theology Pub 6 p.m. fourth Wednesdays at rotating locations. Drink and think (and eat) while discussing life and faith. **This month's Theo Pub will meet on the THIRD Wednesday, Nov. 15**, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We will meet at Craft Republic, on La Cholla just north of Ina (beside the former Foothills Mall).

Advent devotionals are now available wherever you usually pick up your monthly devotionals on either campus. From Cokesbury, it is simply titled "Advent 2023" by Rev. Sam McGlothlin. Suggested donation is \$1.

Coffee with Pastor Lynn – 2-3:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at the Barnes & Noble Café at Ina and La Cholla. Come with questions or just join in conversation.

Manhattan Dolls Will Perform This Month



Our Concert Series has had a few fabulous performances to start off the 2023-24 season. Here's what's in store for the remainder of the year:

- ✦ You will not want to miss **The Manhattan Dolls** performing their Veterans' Day concert on **Nov. 12!** The Dolls will take you through a Sentimental Journey with the great music of the 30s and 40s.
- ✦ Concert Series returnees Elena Galbraith, soprano, Sandy Schwoebel, flute, and Marie Sierra, piano, of **Nota Bene** will bring the melodies and joy of the holiday season on **Dec. 10.**
- ✦ And culminating 2023 will be our combined choirs' **Christmas Cantata**, featuring the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus and a chamber orchestra, led by Jordan Shomper, on **Dec. 17.**

All concerts take place at 3 p.m. in the Magee Campus sanctuary.

A Word from Worldwide Christian Support Task Force

During worship on Sunday, Nov. 12, St. Mark's will join other churches around the world in praying for Christians who are being persecuted. Globally, more than 360 million Christians live in places where they face a high level of persecution. We will be praying to support them. The St. Mark's Worldwide Christian Support Task Force will be on the patio with materials to provide parishioners with materials to assist in supporting persecuted Christians.



Spend Thanksgiving with St. Mark's



No plans for Thanksgiving? Don't want to cook? Join your St. Mark's family for our annual Thanksgiving potluck at noon Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving Day) in the Magee Campus Fellowship Hall.

The traditional Thanksgiving meal will include turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, vegetables, pies and other holiday favorites. The church office has a list of suggested dishes. We will provide the turkeys and drinks, and you can sign up to bring a dish to share.

You can sign up online to attend the dinner and indicate the dish you would like to bring at <https://umcstmarks.breezechms.com/form/Thanksgiving23>, complete a form in the Magee Campus courtyard on Nov. 12 or 19, pick up a form in the church office or just call the church office to make your reservation.

All are welcome. If you are not able to contribute a dish, please come and enjoy the fellowship and food with us.

Celebrate with us! New Basketball/Pickleball Court

The St Mark's Board of Trustees and the youth group invite you to the Magee Campus west patio on Nov. 19 for a re-opening cookout and celebration of our new and improved basketball/pickleball court! We'll have demonstrations, games and open play. We will provide hotdogs and fixings, but we need you to bring the cheer. We will begin serving at 11:45 a.m. to allow both campuses time to join us!

Christmas Love for Nash Families

Our annual collection of gift cards for Nash Elementary families is about to begin. Several years ago, the Nash Neighbors committee decided that instead of asking St. Mark's families to "adopt" a few families from the school for Christmas, we could help more families by distributing gift cards donated by our generous congregation.

For several years, we have collected an average of \$5,225 in Target and Walmart gift cards that the principal and school counselor then pass on to families most in need of assistance. We recognize that families continue to struggle with income and food insecurity and through your generosity, we can make a difference in what kind of Christmas their children might have.

You may donate as many of the \$25 cards as you wish, or you may contribute money in any amount. All cash will be used to purchase more cards. Last year we collected \$4,410 (172 cards), and our hope and prayer this November is to collect an amount closer to our 2020 total of \$6,300!

- ◇ **Collection dates are Sundays, Nov. 12 and 19.** Nash Neighbors will have a table on the Magee Campus patio after both services. Please stop by the table as you arrive or leave.
- ◇ **Online giving** – If you currently make your offerings online to St. Mark's, you can add an amount designated for Nash Gift Cards.
- ◇ **Mail a check (not the actual cards, please) or drop off a check or cards** to the church office, marked clearly for Nash Gift Cards.

Thank you, St. Mark's family, for your amazing support that will bless so many Nash families this Christmas. Imagine the joy in their children's lives.

Carol Cecilia, Nash Neighbors



Busy Times for Children's and Family Ministries

This fall, children and families have been busy on the Magee Campus. In Sunday school, children have been learning about Abraham and Sarah through Bible stories, activities and song.



At the 10 a.m. service Oct. 22, the children led the congregation in a joyful rendition of "Father Abraham." On Oct. 27, children and families from St. Mark's, the Early Childhood Center and the community enjoyed the Fall Event that included "Casper" on the big screen in the south parking lot, a costume parade, a hotdog dinner, treats, a glow stick dance party and two door prize drawings. Oct. 29 was Fifth Sunday Family Worship, Christian Education Sunday and Bible Sunday. In addition to worshipping with our favorite Bi-

bles, third-graders received their very own Bibles. Volunteer teachers and leaders were recognized for their work in the classrooms with our children, youth and adult programs.

Scan the attached QR code to learn more about the **"Kids Night Out - Drop and Shop"** and the **"Winter Advent"** events coming to the Magee and Sanctuary campuses for St. Mark's families and friends. Both of these fun events will include photos with Santa and fun activities to put everyone in the Christmas spirit!

St Mark's Family Ministries



Looking Ahead to Advent, December and Christmas

Advent 2023 will soon begin and Adult Spiritual Growth is pleased to announce the first scheduled study. The primary content of this study will be part of Advent sermons while the study itself will be discussed in several classes throughout the four weeks leading up to Christmas.

"Experiencing Christmas - Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Advent" by Matt Rawle.

Everything seems different at the end of the year. We put lights on our houses to dispel the growing darkness, Christmas music floods local radio stations, apple cider and cranberry sauce are again on the menu, and wrapping paper and tape are always ready. Things just look, smell, and taste differently during the Advent and Christmas season, and these differences are a sign to us that God is about to do something radical and different. Christmas is when God surrounded the divine with senses of his own. That first noel was when God had eyes to see suffering, ears to hear our cries, and hands to hold those in need, and all of these senses were bundled in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. "This will be a sign to you," the angel told the shepherds, and they traveled to Bethlehem and found a child. What signs do you see during the Advent and Christmas season that point you to the divine?

✦ **9:30-11 a.m. Adult Sunday School** beginning Nov. 19 (no meeting Nov. 26)

✦ **10-11:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Study** beginning Nov. 29

Share life
Give blood



Our blood drive is back and will take place on Sunday, Dec. 3 in the Magee Campus Fellowship Hall. Donating blood means so much to those who need a blood transfusion. The American Red Cross states that circumstances include a car crash, surgeries, childbirth, anemia, blood disorders, cancer treatments, and more. You will most likely never see the faces of the people who you have helped, but they could be sitting right next to you at church!

New Member Class!
New Member Class!



DECEMBER 2 is the
next New Member Class!

New Member Class
DECEMBER 2, 2023
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

RSVP to
Tricia@umcstmarks.org
OR use the QR Code!



SAVE THE DATE!!

In the Bleak Mid-Winter:
A Service of Longing

Come to reflect, share or simply
sit this **Longest Night**.

6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, in the
Magee Campus sanctuary.





Missions Ministry

A Word from the Chair ...

The Missions Committee has been reorganized to more accurately reflect our roles and responsibilities. We are a two-pronged group. One group consists of liaisons who connect with organizations that we fund. The other group are those who are actively involved frequently with functions and activities.

The first group of individuals contacts the organizations and ensures that our donations are doing what we intend. They establish whether there is a specific time to give donations (e.g., if matching funds are available). This year we have already donated to Tu Nidito, Stand Up for Kids, Our Family Services, The INN Project, Youth On Their Own, Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN), Emerge, Interfaith Community Services and TMM Family Services.

The second group functions independently and ongoing with funding from the Missions Committee. It includes Nash and Estes elementary schools, Market on the Move, ICS, TIHAN, Tucson Refugee Ministry and Primavera.

Mary Beth Barone, Chair

We have recommended that 75% of the **Thanksgiving Special Offering** be designated for Tucson Refugee Ministry. More than 30 St. Mark's individuals have served as volunteers. Tucson Refugee Ministry is thrilled with the support it has received from St. Mark's, and we are a key faith community partner. We have been mentioned often in Tucson Refugee Ministry newsletter articles, including twice in the latest newsletter.

We recommend that the other 25% of the Thanksgiving Special Offering be designated for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Charitable Organization. We envision a future where community and tribal members are empowered economically, socially and physically to achieve their goals.



ICS INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES
WHERE HELP BRINGS HOPE

We are collecting **holiday food donations** for the Northwest Food Bank at ICS. St. Mark's has donated 14,000 lbs. of food this year! That has helped so many who need supplemental food assistance. Thank you! During November and December, we are featuring donations of non-perishable holiday side dishes. These items could include boxed potatoes, stuffing mix, canned cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes, vegetables, soup, etc. Everything we donate will be appreciated and will help those coming to the food bank to have a nice holiday meal. Bring your food donations between 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays and Saturdays to the north parking lot of the Magee Campus, or if it is more convenient, you can drop them off at the church office during its business hours.



Among many things, TMM Family Services has a clothing closet. We are restarting our collection of clothing for TMM. The bins will be in the Magee Campus courtyard the second Sunday of each month beginning in November.

For more information about TMM, check out our Missions brochure! It is available on both campuses and in the church office.

Christmas Cards for the Military: Volunteers are distributing packages of these at both campuses. Guidelines for what to do are included in each package of five cards. These will be sent to military people who are actively serving. **The deadline for returning the Christmas cards has been extended to Nov. 19.** You can return the cards to either campus, and we still have more cards to be signed. **Thank you for brightening the season for the military serving our country!**



Youth Ministry

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



Youth Group Calendar



Nov 4

Nov 5



Nov 12

Nov 19



Nov 19



Nov 19



Nov 19

United

4th-7th Grade Students

Right after Court Celebration (1PM)

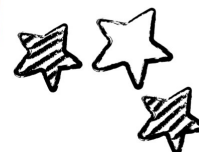
Join us for our first ever Friendsgiving celebration on Sunday, **Nov. 19** in Fellowship Hall on the Magee Campus! We will provide the turkey, you bring your favorite side dish or dessert! We will have tons of fun with food, friends, and fellowship. Friends are always welcome. See you there!

Questions? Email spencer@umcstmarks.org

Re-Cap!

We had a blast at our Photo Scavenger Hunt! Here are some highlights...

lll



St. Mark's Link Tree

Youth Group



Scan here to find links to our social media, this year's permission slip, our Amazon Wish List and MORE!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Masterpiece Festival

Nov. 4, 7-9AM or 2:45-4:45PM

We need lots of help setting up and breaking down the Masterpiece Festival on November 4. Who will have more volunteers...Middle or High School!? The competition will be fierce! Contact Rachel to sign up.

Pretzel Prayers

Nov. 5, 4-6

Sanctuary Campus

Pretzels...salty, crunchy, delicious snack, or pretzels...a unique guide to prayer? We better meet on November 5 to discover the age old question...and play games!

Veterans' Day

Nov. 12

As with most three day weekends from school, we will not meet on November 12, in remembrance of Veteran's Day. See you in Sunday School!

Basketball/Pickleball Court Celebration

Nov. 19

11:45

Our basketball court was in serious disrepair...so we got it fixed! Join the congregation for a celebration of the NEW court that will be ready for basketball AND pickleball! Interested in helping? Contact Rachel!

Pinspiration Splatter Painting

Middle School Students

Nov. 19 3:30-6:00

Middle School- it's your turn at Pinspiration!! Meet at the Magee campus at 3:30 and head over for some awesome splatter painting!

Sundae Sunday

High School Students

Nov. 19

4:00-6:00

High School- while the Middle School students are splatter painting, you get to have a deliciously fun event on the Magee campus! Don't miss it.



November Birthdays

Addy Ritchey	11/4
Brandon Britt	11/15
Keves Velasco	11/15
Rose Sanchez	11/24
Megan Newton	11/25

ADVENT 2024

SELFIE GALLERY



This Advent Season, our Youth Sunday School program has a really fun plan! In our Youth Rooms, there will be a Selfie

Gallery that will coincide with our Advent Series, Experiencing Christmas. There will be five backdrops, some props, and a few ring lights for Selfies! The Gallery will be shared with the Children's Sunday School, ECC, Family Ministries, and the whole Congregation on Christmas Eve! Want to see it? Want to take some amazing selfies/photos!? Check it out in rooms 8/9, or I'll see you in Sunday School during Advent!

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT 2024

In October, Rachel officially put in our requests for which week and which site we will serve this summer! We should find out what we got in the next few weeks, and I will start the sign up process!



St. Mark's has been attending SSP since 1985! The only years that we didn't participate were 2020 and 2021...for obvious reasons. It is such a great experience to return to this program, and learn and grow together! If you are a student in grades 8-12, I strongly encourage you to consider this awesome experience. If you are a senior this year (and 18 years old), let's chat about applying to be Staff in Training, or how you can be more involved!

DISTRICT YOUTH CONNECTIONS

Being part of a connectional church is so cool! It's great to know that there are youth all around Tucson...all around Arizona...the country...the world...who share our beliefs. Dec. 3, we will join with youth from all around the South District for an epic Goose Chase in the park! You don't want to miss it!!





United Women in Faith

UWF News

St. Mark's United Women in Faith will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14, in Magee Campus Room 17/18 and via Zoom. Light refreshments will be available beginning at 9:30. All women are invited. Our November program will dedicate our individual World Thank Offerings, in which UWF members show gratitude in a creative way by raising funds for programs that serve women, children and

youth. Questions? Contact President Clara Campbell (see church directory). Request Zoom info by contacting Secretary Kay Hayworth (see church directory) or leaving a note in the UWF mailbox in the church office.

During the Masterpiece Festival Nov. 4, UWF will hold a craft sale in the church library and a bake sale in Room 18, to raise money for missions. Please stop by for some homemade goodies or start your Christmas shopping early!

A special craft and bake sale will take place after both services Dec. 3 in the church library. UWF Craft Circle has spent the year designing and creating a variety of crafts to raise money for missions in Tucson and around the world. Last year, the group donated to five local nonprofit organizations and to our church youth group from monies raised with our four fundraisers. We appreciate your support.



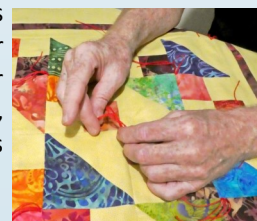
Marksmen continue to support worthy causes. Pictured are Bob Sogn and Harold Putt presenting a \$500 check to Celia Hildebrand of Ukraine Medical Relief on March 1.

Celia had just returned from Ukraine and on Aug. 16, she updated us on her trip, the situation in Ukraine, and how the funds were used. A freewill offering of \$390 was given to Celia at that meeting.

Covered With Prayer

"Ties That Bind" is a prayer ministry that promotes prayer through the use of lap-sized quilts. These quilts are given to a person with a health, emotional or spiritual need for prayers. We believe prayer quilts are gifts of love and prayer, a confirmation of our faith in God, and our belief in God's power to comfort, strengthen and heal. The quilts are blessed by members of our congregation and others as they tie knots in the threads while praying for the recipient.

We ask that those who request prayer quilts ("sponsors") be members of our congregation and are making the request for themselves, a family member, a friend, or someone who they have a personal connection with. The recipients do not have to attend St. Mark's UMC but they must be asked if they will accept one and what they want us to pray for them. We never assume what they would ask for and they may not accept one. A photo is requested, but not required, so the congregation sees who is being prayed for. There is *no charge* to the recipients or sponsors of the prayer quilts because materials used are donated or purchased through donations. For more information or to request a quilt, please contact Ann Dyer or Gail Blevins (see church directory).



We need volunteers!

**Saturday,
Nov. 4
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**



tinyurl.com/MasterpieceFestival

We need help as early as 6:30 a.m. and we have a variety of roles to fill!

Masterpiece Festival

Can you help?



New report finds another 115 Indigenous boarding schools, most run by missionaries

The total number of boarding schools in Arizona grows by 11, to 59 (Excerpts from the AZ Mirror, as reported 9/30/2023 by Shondiin Silversmith)

From the remote parts of northern Alaska to the coastal edges of Florida, Native American boarding schools were set up in or near tribal nations to assimilate Indigenous children into white, Christian, American society. In Arizona, the number of boarding schools is 59, the second highest in the country, behind Oklahoma's 95.

Neighboring New Mexico had 52. "It wasn't just the federal government that did this. Of course, the federal government had a huge part, but it was also Christian missionaries who often did not have funding or support from the federal government," Torres said. "The end goal was largely much the same," said Samuel Torres, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition Deputy CEO. "It was the cultural reprogramming of Native children. It was the intention to strip Native people of language, culture, tradition and ties to the land. That part can't be overstated." For additional information, follow this link: <https://www.azmirror.com/2023/09/30/new-report-finds-another-115-indigenous-boarding-schools-most-run-by-missionaries/>.

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month. A new movie is out based on a true story told in the book, "Killers of the Flower Moon," by David Grann. As the story goes, after the discovery of oil on Osage tribal land, the Osage people began to be killed off one by one. The newly formed FBI steps in to investigate. Although classified as a "Western," director Martin Scorsese took pains to present a picture that was faithful to the heart of the Osage people.

Church & Society suggests this movie or book might be a good activity to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. Note that the movie is an epic, almost 3 1/2 hours long and it is R rated for violence and language.

A group from St. Mark's is planning to see the movie at Foothills AMC this month. Date and time TBA. Contact Joylee Gathings if you are interested in joining us. Whether you see the movie or read the book, we will meet at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, at Barnes & Noble Café (Ina and La Cholla) to discuss it. We hope you can join us.



Church & Society

Voting – More than a Right – It's a Duty

Have you ever skipped voting in an election because you thought it was too much trouble? Or you didn't think it would make a difference? Or you didn't know anything about the issues or the candidates? Or, "they're only local issues"?

⇒ Arizona has many safe voting options in place: mail-in vote, early voting polls, voting day polls. Measures are being taken to assure the safety of poll workers by would-be troublemakers.

- ⇒ Every vote *does* count. There have been some very close elections in modern times.
- ⇒ There is much information available from reliable sources regarding the issues and the candidates. Learn about the candidates, debates to watch, and important deadlines and more for the local election in your area. Mail-in ballots have been sent out. <https://www.azcleelections.gov/voter-dashboard>
- ⇒ Local issues are how we make decisions about where we live – those issues that touch our lives every day in Tucson, Pima County, the State of Arizona.

General Election Did You Know: With the exception of these four Constitutional Amendments, election laws are controlled by each state: 15th Amendment (Black men's right to vote), 19th Amendment (women's right to vote), 24th Amendment (eliminated poll taxes), 26th Amendment (lowered the voting age to 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 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



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

Glen Brechbiel
Nancy Gobrecht
Helen Swanson

Dave Camp
George and Darcy Halvorson
Shirley Stedronsky

Kelly Deyoe
Bill and Lillian Porter
Cal Young

Miriam Engel
Cheri Schwartz



St. Mark's UMC
Sanctuary Campus
7620 N. Hartman Lane 85743
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

Dear Church Family ...



RE: Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner

I want to thank our church family for all the purchases you made. We made about \$1,200 for missions. The United Women in Faith thank you so much.

I would also like to thank all of the wonderful women who helped with cookies, packing them, bread and butter and dressing, plus serving it all.

Thank you all so much,
Clara Campbell
St. Mark's UWF President

Bill and I are so thankful for all the help our church family provided when I broke my wrist and then packing up and moving to Mountain View Independent Living. We were so BLESSED!

I'm slow thanking you, because getting through therapy and unpacking has taken up my time. Once again THANK YOU!! St. Mark's is a wonderful congregation!

In Christian Love,
Bill and Lillian Porter



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Reflections

While shopping at Target last week, I heard my son shout, "There's already CHRISTMAS stuff out!" Sure enough, with Halloween still a week away, the diligent Target employees had taken half of the Halloween section down and filled it with Christmas decorations.

Now, most people might not have a big reaction to this, but I am a church pastor, so this news made my eyes squint like a gunslinger's, and I whispered in coarse tone, "And so... it begins."

The holidays! Soon we will all be as busy as Target clerks, hanging decorations, planning travel, writing lists, attending pageants, concerts, and plays. You might bake cookies and pies, roast a turkey, and cook potatoes three ways all on the same day (or, at least eat them all). At St. Mark's there will be small groups, book groups, craft sales, wreath-lighting, and even more singing than normal.

The holidays are so great, but they are often busy, hectic, and emotionally charged as we try to get every bit of joy, love, and meaning out of every part.

And so, right now, before "it" begins – before it gets lost in the festive noise – I want to take a moment to say, out loud: I love church.

I love that we get together, every week, even on the Sundays that aren't holidays. I love talking with you, learning with you, and watching you greet visitors as they come in. I love that we make calls and deliver meals and are eager to pray for each other. I love that we stand in a room to sing mysterious new songs and dusty old classics. I love bells and pews and the whiteboard the kids who can't sit still draw on. I love that we teach kids the stories about Jesus – stories that can shape their lives more than anything they'll see on TV. I love that our office has teenagers in it, often.

I love what we do, because I believe that Holy Spirit is at work in it, making the love of God tangible, visible, and audible for us and for our neighbors. In the midst of the busy holiday season, let's not forget how special it is to be a church, and to be together, with Christ.

-Pastor Kevin