

Our Summer Music Camp was a HUGE success!

The campers met seven hours a day for five days and performed a musical at both services on the Magee Campus on July 27. (If you missed it, take the time to watch it online....you'll be glad you did) What an awesome experience for the campers and volunteers.

Many, many thanks to the 35 leaders and our four pastors who spent hours preparing for the program and then led the groups during the week. Volunteers helped with music, arts and crafts, set creation, prop construction, snack time, games, story time and so much more. Thanks also to so many in the congregation who donated snacks and supplies. This was truly an all-church effort that not only served as a youth educational event, but an incredible outreach opportunity as we had many families from outside the church who participated. Thank you, St. Marks!



HUGE thanks to Sherry Heatherly for being our volunteer organizer!

More music camp photos are in our Welcome Center!



Rally Day is Coming Soon!

We are excited to celebrate this special day with our Sunday School families! Join us on Sunday, Aug. 10 at 10 am as we kick-off our new Sunday School year. A registration table will be set up in the west courtyard from 9:30-10 am, or you can register online at <https://umcstmarks.breezechms.com/form/SundaySchool>

Even if you have previously filled out a registration form for your child(ren), please fill out a form for this new Sunday School year. On this special day, we will also present Bibles to our third grade Sunday School children during Children's Time.

Room 3 - 3 year olds - 1st grade
(3 year olds must be potty trained.)
Rooms 8/9 - 2nd - 5th grade



**WE'RE
HIRING!**

We are hiring two part-time people to set up and tear down the worship space at Coyote Trail Elementary school each Sunday. It's a great job for someone

looking to pick up 4-5 hours each week. Details are on our website: <https://www.umcstmarks.org/job-opportunities/>



Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

ALL REGISTRATION IS ONLINE AT
umcstmarks.org/classes/adult-spiritual-growth-opportunities

or sign up at the Adult Spiritual Growth board on the Magee Campus on Sunday mornings. Please pre-register and acquire books from your favorite resource.

Adult Sunday School - 9:30 am Sundays in Rooms 17/18 and via Zoom. We will be doing a four-week study of Methodist History called *Radicle Methodism*. All are welcome!

Please register online or contact leader Rick Farnsworth to obtain Zoom information.

Seekers Sunday Bible Study - Sundays at 11:15 am in rooms 17/18. In the next few weeks, as we continue our study of Luke, we will learn about some of the lessons that Jesus teaches his disciples, as well as what his expectations are for those who choose to follow him. Please bring a Bible and join us in rooms 17/18 or via Zoom on most Sundays at 11:15 am for lively discussions as we explore God's word together.

Please register online or contact leader Brenda Hunter to obtain Zoom information.

Wednesday Morning Study - See page three for more information about this opportunity for study and community.

Roadrunner Book Club - 9:30 am Wednesdays at Roadrunner Coffee, Linda Vista and Thornydale. We will be reading *Still Life* by Sarah Winman. Please contact Carol Witherspoon.

Summer Book Study - Thursday August 21 at 9:30 am. We are reading *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee* by David Treuer. From the arrival of settlers to the current day, learn how indigenous people have faced a multitude of depredations and survived. Treuer traveled across this country learning about the history and the resourcefulness of indigenous people. The class is led by Art Ragland. Register at the link above to receive your Zoom link.



Bible and a Bite is on hiatus for the summer. Check back next month and watch the weekly email for more information.

A Bible study is held at **Mountain View Retirement Village** on Monday mornings at 10:30 am in the conference room, which is located on the second floor. Bibles are provided, however, you are welcome to bring your personal Bible. Copies of the lesson are distributed to the participants when we gather for the study. All are welcome, even if you don't live in the Village! Talk to Marge Sogn for more information.

Common Grounds - 6 pm the third Saturday of each month.

The **Marksmen** meet the first and third Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall for a program, breakfast, and fellowship. Contact them at marksmen@umcstmarks.org for more information.

Rainbow Fellowship meets on the third Sunday of each month in the Library on the Magee Campus at 9 am. Contact Kitty Tobin for more information.

Pub Theology - 6 pm the last Monday of the month at Transplant Pizza at River and La Cholla. Drink and think (and eat) while discussing life and faith. Contact info@umcstmarks.org



The **Mark-a-Ritas** are a group of women who believe it's important to have girlfriends at church, too! The Mark-a-Ritas meet monthly and take turns planning the activities. Whether an event is strictly social or includes a study or service project, you can count on plenty of conversation and laughter! Contact markaritas.tucson@gmail.com.

Pickleball meets 7:30 am-9:30 am Wednesdays on the court in the Magee campus north parking lot.

The **Veteran's Breakfast Group** meets on the fourth Friday of each month at Cracker Barrel at 8400 N Cracker Barrel Rd in Marana from 8:30 to 10 am. Come and join them for great conversation and sharing. Contact Marcia Rostad for more information.

The Marksmen

8 am 1st & 3rd Wednesdays in Magee Campus Fellowship Hall.
Friendly retired and semi-retired men meet for a program, breakfast, and fellowship.

marksmen@umcstmarks.org



Marksmen Guest Chefs

This month, the Marksmen men's group is turning up the heat with some guest chefs—each bringing their own flavor to the table! Join us for a delicious breakfast, meaningful conversation, and great fellowship.

Here's the lineup:

August 6 – Pastor Lynn takes a turn in the kitchen—expect something thoughtful and tasty (with just a dash of holy mischief).

August 20 – Lora, our amazing Office Manager, shares her gifts beyond the office as she serves up a crowd-pleasing favorite.

September 3 – Pastor Tu'ulauena will share a meal rooted in hospitality, tradition, and joy.

All men are welcome—bring a friend and a hearty appetite. These are breakfasts you won't want to miss!

Planning with Purpose: Estate Planning Workshop


We're pleased to offer a free Estate Planning Workshop — a valuable opportunity to think ahead with wisdom and intention.

Whether you've never created a will, or it's time to revisit your plans due to life changes, this workshop will provide helpful, easy-to-understand guidance on preparing for the future. Topics will include wills and trusts, financial planning, powers of attorney, and more.

Our speakers are trusted members of St. Mark's:

- Paul Willman, Family Law Attorney
- Linda Martino, Financial Planner
- Rick Wendtland, CPA

Each speaker brings years of professional experience and a heart for service. There will be no pressure to use their services - they're here simply to offer guidance and answer questions.

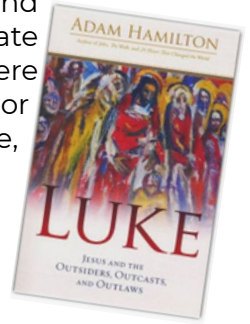
 Sunday, September 28, 11:15 am
 Magee Campus of St. Mark's UMC
1431 W Magee Rd; Tucson, AZ 85704



This workshop is free and open to all, so invite a friend or family member.

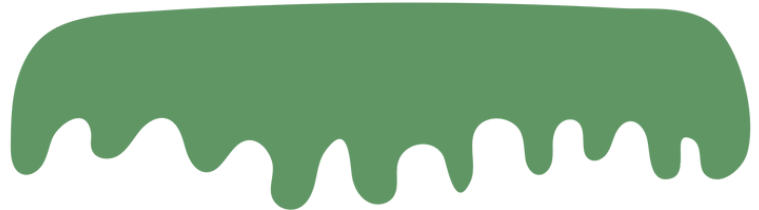
- Finance Committee

The Wednesday Morning Study will resume on September 3 with the six-week study: *Luke - Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* by Adam Hamilton. In the Gospel of Luke, we read how Jesus came to lift-up the lowly; the ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people who populate society. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it. And he continues to bring good news to us today.



The Wednesday Morning Study meets at 10-11:30 am in rooms 17/18 and is also live on Zoom. Feel free to join the class whenever a certain study interests you. You may register online, especially if you need the Zoom contact code. Please purchase your own study book from your favorite vendor.

- Marcia Rostad



One of the most famous monsters in literature is described in the book *Frankenstein* by



Mary Shelley. Since monsters often show up on Halloween, I am inviting you to a book study on the book *Frankenstein* the evening of Wednesday October 29. Please find a copy of the book at the library or your favorite bookstore, and join me in about three months to find out why it is reasonable for a church to sponsor a study of this book.

- Brenda Hunter



Coffee with Pastor Lynn

Come chat with Pastor Lynn! Ask questions, complain about something, get more information about something...

whatever you want! Join her **August 14 from 1-2 pm** at Barnes and Noble Bookstore at the former Foothills Mall. Grab a drink or just come chat!





United
Women
in Faith

***All contact
information
can be found
in your Breeze
directory**

United Women in Faith is a Christian membership organization for women within The United Methodist Church (UMC). Formerly known as United Methodist Women, it's a community focused on spiritual growth, leadership development, and global missions. Its mission is to connect and nurture women through spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education. It aims to inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities by advocating for justice and transforming communities.

United Women in Faith will NOT have a unit meeting in August.



Save the dates!

Enjoy crafting or spending time with fun women? Join the women at the UWF Craft Circle and see what happens!

We meet Tuesdays, Aug. 5, 12 and 19, at 9 am in Rooms 17/18 at the Magee Campus.



YOUTH ON THEIR OWN®

Check out

This agency that we support is a dropout prevention program that supports the high school graduation and continued success of youth experiencing homelessness in Pima County. Join our United Women in Faith Grace Circle as we take a trip to their campus! Meet at **9 am on Tuesday, Aug. 26** in Rooms 17/18 at the Magee Campus. After devotions we will carpool to Youth On Their Own. All ladies are welcome!



Church
&
Society

On Indian Boarding Schools

by Cara Zermuehlen

When European explorers arrived in the Americas, conflict with Indigenous peoples soon followed. Many colonists believed "The only good Indian was a dead Indian." In 1879, Richard Henry Pratt opened the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in

Pennsylvania with a different, but equally harmful mission: "Kill the Indian, and save the man." His goal was to erase Native identity by forcing children to abandon their languages, clothing, and cultures.

Carlisle became the model for dozens of Indian boarding schools. At these institutions, students were punished - often with beatings or hard labor - for speaking their languages or practicing their traditions. Visits home were rare and often unaffordable. These schools aimed not to educate Native children as they were, but to make them not-Indian.

In 1928, the Meriam Report exposed the poor conditions in these schools: unqualified staff, heavy use of child labor, neglect of emotional and academic needs, and unsafe living environments. Yet, this system persisted for decades.

From 1879 to the late 1930s, U.S. policy sought to assimilate Native children by destroying their cultures.

To learn more, see *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee* by David Treuer.

Tucson Indian Boarding School 1925





Missions Ministry

CALL for VOLUNTEERS

Are you willing to help the teachers and staff at Nash Elementary School? The past few years have left our schools short staffed and with many needs. There is a special request for a kindergarten helper. You can choose the day/days and hours to volunteer. Typically volunteering does not start until after Labor Day, but all volunteers must be fingerprinted by Amphi School District for a background check. Carol N was a classroom volunteer for many years, and the experience was very rewarding. If you are interested, please email or call the church office so we can put you in touch with Carol.



THANK YOU for the school supplies donations!!!



Many thanks to the wonderful Summer Choir who prepared the July Primavera meal!

Peanut Butter Party Totals

As of our newsletter printing, we can say with amazement and gratitude that we have surpassed our goal once more! Thank you for your generosity - we have collected well over **3100 jars** of peanut butter for ICS!! Thank you for blessing our community!



ADULT MISSION TRIP!



Why should the youth have all the fun?!? Calling all adults - and maybe youth or children with their adults too - for your own mission trip! We are in the process of planning an adult mission trip to Chinle Planting Hope in Chinle, Az. Their Mission statement is "Empowered by God's love and justice, we practice creative community development that builds upon Dine' community with dignity and hope." We will be serving our brothers and sisters of the Navajo Nation. Plans are for this fall, with dates to be announced. We will keep you posted as specific plans unfold. If you are interested, please contact Karen Berry at Kberryhome512@gmail.com.



Thank you so much for your amazing support of these students, who attended St. Mark's 38th year participating in Sierra Service Project! These 19 students and their four chaperones represented St. Mark's well in San Diego this summer. With projects that ranged from beautiful art projects for Friendship Day, to graffiti cleanup, helping with programs at the public library, and LOTS of clearing of invasive plants, our students truly showed the love of God in their actions. They were leaders among their groups, and did amazing work all week. Hopefully next year, we can take even more! Stay tuned for more fun SSP updates in worship next month!

St. Mark's UMC

CARE
LINE

Need to talk with a pastor?

Call and leave a message:
520-783-8837

Or email:
pastoral_care@umcstmarks.org

Introducing the New Discipleship Team

A New Vision for Discipleship at St. Mark's

We're excited to share some big news about the future of Discipleship Ministries at St. Mark's! After thoughtful discernment and prayerful planning, we are launching a new staffing structure designed to support spiritual growth for people of all ages - and we are thrilled to welcome a new team member to help lead this important work.

Why the Change?

In the past, many of our programs - children's ministry, youth activities, adult studies - have been organized in age-based silos. While this has served us well, we believe it's time for a more connected and collaborative approach.

We've created a Discipleship Team, made up of three staff members that will work together across generations to help everyone grow in faith and experience the love of Christ. This team will meet weekly to plan, share ideas, and build ministries that are creative, connected, and inclusive.

Together, this team will guide all educational programs, seasonal events, & special activities, working to ensure better communication, deeper collaboration, and wider participation throughout the church.

Meet the New Structure

Director of Discipleship

(Part Time)

Provides vision and oversight for all areas of Discipleship Ministries, nurturing faith formation across generations. Oversees the adult ministries components. This role focuses on strategy, coordination, and staff support.

Associate Director of Discipleship: Youth & Young Adults

(Full Time)

Leads ministry for middle and high school youth and will develop a new ministry for young adults (ages 18-35), equipping the next generation of disciples and leaders.

Associate Director of Discipleship: Intergenerational Ministries (Children & Family)

(Full Time)

Oversees children's ministry (birth-5th grade), supports families, and fosters connections across age groups through creative intergenerational programming.

Our Goal: Growth and Flourishing

By investing in this new structure—including two full-time Associate Directors and a part-time Director—we are planting seeds for the future. We believe this team will bring new energy, focus, and creativity to our ministries, helping St. Mark's grow as a place where all generations gather, connect, and serve together. Please join us in praying for our Discipleship Team as they begin this exciting new chapter!

WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?

Discipleship is the ongoing process of growing in love of God and neighbor, following the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. It involves learning, serving, and sharing our faith as we live out God's mission in the world.



Deborah, Director of Discipleship



Rachel, Associate Director of Discipleship



Edwin, Associate Director of Discipleship

We are thrilled to welcome **Edwin Andrade** as our first Associate Director of Discipleship for Intergenerational Ministry. Edwin calls Tucson home, although he's just returning to the city after time away. A graduate of Oral Roberts University, Edwin has experience in local church ministry in the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches as well as community organizations. Edwin recently graduated from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity, and has one more year in a Master's of Pastoral Care and Counseling program. He joins Pastors Sharon, Stuart, and Lynn as G-ETS alum!

Edwin is relocating to Tucson from the Chicagoland area with his wife, a school psychologist at TUSD. He will begin his position here at St. Mark's on August 5. Look for him and give him a warm welcome back to the desert!

Youth Ministry

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



August Events



August 3



Join us at the DaDeppo family's house (address is in Breeze, or text Rachel) for this year's Senior Sendoff. . .with a splash! Rumor has it there will be swimming, snacks, Nertz, and so many other fun games! Meet at the DaDeppo's from 4-6 for fun, sun, and some heartfelt "see ya later's" for our seniors!

Aug 3

4-6 at the DaDeppo House



August 17



A Trivia Night like you have never seen before. There will be trivia, sure. But there will also be action. There will be adventure. Some will win. Some won't. We will certainly all have fun trying! Meet in the Wesley House from 4-6, ready to answer a few questions and have a TON of fun!

Aug 17
4-6



August 31



Most months have 4 Sundays. But four times per year, we get a special FIFTH Sunday! It's like a bonus! Here at St. Mark's we celebrate this "extra" Sunday together. . . .by being together! Instead of staying over in the Wesley House and doing our own thing, we will meet with the rest of our Church Family for Family Worship! We often have special extra ways for youth to serve in the service! Interested? See Rachel.

Aug 31
10AM



August 10

August 10 kicks off our new ministry year with Rally Day and the Speedy Switcharoo from 4-6! Our Summer Interns have worked so hard to plan an amazing evening where you can come check out all of the different types of events Youth Group hosts. . .all at once! Kind of like speed dating, but for Youth Group! You don't want to miss this!

THE Speedy SWITCHAROO
A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING ALL AT ONCE.

SEE ALL THE THINGS WE DO AT YOUTH. ALL IN ONE FAST PACED, EXCITING NIGHT LED BY OUR SUMMER INTERNS.

Aug 10
4-6



August 24

Party at St. James! We will take some fun games and go swim at St. James! Those lucky ducks have a pool right there on their property!! Meet at the Wesley House at 3:15; we will be back by 6:45. Be sure to bring/wear sunscreen, your bathing suit, and a towel! See you then!

South District Back to School



District-wide, poolside event

Aug 24
3:15-6:45



August 31

Rest is important! When God finished creation, God rested. In the wilderness, Elijah rested. When Jesus found himself in a storm, he slept. You, too, need to rest! When schools have a three day weekend, I want you to take advantage of that, and rest! Labor Day weekend is the first one of these this year- I invite you to take some time in the afternoon to rest, to relax, to connect with God.



Aug 31

Sunday School meets weekly 10-11 in the Wesley House on 1st-4th Sundays. On 5th Sundays, join us for Family Worship! Youth Group meets from 4-6 in the Wesley House unless otherwise noted.

Youth Ministry

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

IMPORTANT INFO

New Year, New Form

August 10 kicks off a new ministry year! So it is time for new permission slips! Yay! (Did it work? Did I make it seem exciting!?). You may pick up a new Permission Slip in the Wesley House on Sunday, or fill it out digitally at the QR code here.



This permission form is also our registration form, so even if you don't plan to go on any trips with us, I still need one filled out for each of you!

United! Save the Dates!

Jessica has some AMAZING United programs planned for this year! If you (or someone you know!) is in grades 4-7...write these dates down!! September 7, December 7, March 1, May 31. United is a really fun program with smaller groups for 4th-7th grade students, and you do NOT want to miss it!

Confirmation '25-'26

Confirmation here at St. Mark's is for students in eighth grade and higher who have not yet been confirmed. We learn together the history of our church and how we can Gather, Connect, and Serve. Our orientation for this year will be on September 14, right after Youth Group, for parents and students. Sign up today at the QR code. See Rachel if you have questions.



St. Mark's Swag!

If you haven't picked up this year's Youth shirt...what are you waiting for!? See Rachel ASAP to get yours!

PARENTS!

If you are interested in being on a Planning Team for our November Gala, please contact Rachel ASAP! We need to start planning in August.

St. Mark's Youth Group is a space for 6th-12th grade students to gather for fun, faith, friendship, and fellowship. We meet in the Wesley House for Sunday School Sunday mornings at 10, and Youth Group meets most Sundays from 4-6. The Messenger and our social media pages have the most up to date information!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL



from Reel to Real

This August, we will dive into "Reel to Real: Real Courage. Real Faith. Reel Stories." Each week, we'll pair movie characters with Scripture to explore real questions about identity, courage, belonging, and purpose.

From Buzz Lightyear's identity crisis to Moana's bold journey beyond the reef, from Mirabel's lonely truth-telling to Shrek's search for acceptance, we'll discover how courage and faith invite us to live beyond the surface—and be real with God, ourselves, and each other.

SUMMER INTERNS

This summer the St. Marks Youth Group had a program that let us learn about being a leader, and we helped plan the upcoming year for the youth. We helped create content for both the official St. Marks Youth social media accounts and also the social media accounts that some of the youth post on to make an online presence. One thing we did this summer for the Intern program was refilling the little free Library in front of the Wesley House. We went to Goodwill and every kid picked up a certain amount of books and we got to make sure there was plenty of books for people to come and get for free.

-St. Mark's Summer Interns



Brandon N	Aug 2
Kieran F	Aug 4
JJ H	Aug 13
Luke O	Aug 31

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Can the Holy Spirit be found in Las Vegas? That was the question many of us had before we headed to Las Vegas for the 2025 Desert Southwest Annual Conference (DSAC) – the DSAC had not met there since 1991!

WORSHIP

Opening worship was led by an Elvis Presley impersonator, including hymns like “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” and “How Great Thou Art”. Our guiding scriptures were Jeremiah 17:14 (*“Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise”*) and Psalm 51:10 (*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me”*). Bishop Rapanut introduced one of the themes for Annual Conference (AC): Pebbles thrown into a pond create ripples which spread and can grow into waves. The second theme was continued from last year: Creating a healthy church leads to healing of the world. Combining scripture and themes, we frequently prayed, **“Lord, heal the world, and let it begin with me.”** Daily devotions developed the themes further by using healthy ecosystems to illustrate healthy relationships and communities and reminding us that while physical healing is not always possible, with God’s love, spiritual healing is.

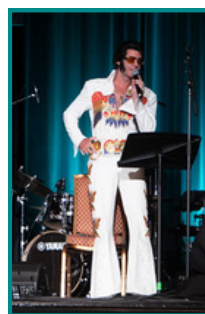
There were additional worship opportunities. Rev. Michael Long preached “Don’t Quit” at the memorial service, reminding us of how people in our past and present are beside us on our walk. Our own Kelly Deyoe was among those remembered, and many of us know that Kelly never quit being a mentor, guide and inspiration. During the Ordination Service, Bishop Sandra Olewine (California-Nevada AC) advised the new ordinands and all of us about what it means to be called to service in today’s church.

ADMINISTRATION

Annual Conference addresses the administration of the church and the ways we should engage with our communities. Votes on routine matters such as budget, salaries, committee structures, and nominations were straightforward. The Immigration Task Force issued a call to action based on the Biblical words “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matt 25:35). We approved resolutions that guide the DSAC actions: divesting from fossil fuel investments; denouncing the Southern Baptist Convention’s call to abolish the right to gay marriage; and continuing support for the work of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race on racial justice, inclusion, equity and transformation.

AMENDMENT VOTING

This year DSAC had the additional task of voting on four constitutional amendments that affect the greater United Methodist Church. The business of the DSAC is only done in person, but the importance of this vote is indicated by the invitation to retired pastors to join that session via ZOOM and vote. In



addition, vote tallies are not being shared at the individual annual conference sessions so as not to influence the voting of conferences that meet later in the year. For an amendment to pass, it needs two thirds of all the individual votes across the entire denomination. The results will be shared in November.

A BRIEF summary of the amendments:

- 1 Amends Article IV to create regional conferences around the globe. While maintaining doctrines, this allows for flexibility with respect to local cultures and legal standards.
- 2 Amends Article IV by adding the words “gender” and “ability” to our statement on inclusion.
- 3 Amends Article V by emphasizing the church’s commitment to opposing racism and racial inequality.
- 4 Amends Article VI by clarifying the requirements for local licensed pastors to be eligible to vote for clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

...AND MORE

A bittersweet moment was when we acknowledged five Faithful Completions: churches that closed after feeding their neighbors, literally and spiritually, for years. Two are in the South District: New Hope UMC and Eloy UMC. At the same time, the church grows with new church starts, new missions, and the addition of 11 local pastors and three elders.

A special treat for our delegation was the invitation to a Tongan luau Friday evening to celebrate the newly licensed Tongan local pastors!

We are space limited, and so cannot report on all that happened, but additional information can be found at <https://dscumc.org/annual-conference/> or by talking with the lay members from St. Marks: Don Booth, Diane James, Kim Ogle and Brenda Hunter. (And yes, the Holy Spirit was active in Las Vegas.)



Prayer for Peace: A Service of Hope and Solidarity

August 24 at 3 pm in the Magee Campus sanctuary

August is recognized as International Peace Month, a time to reflect on our shared longing for a more just and peaceful world. As part of this global call, we invite you to a special Prayer for Peace service during the week of Ukraine's Independence Day—a time that holds deep significance for many around the world.

In this service, we will pray for peace in our nation and across the globe—lifting up Ukraine, the Middle East, and all places impacted by violence, war, and division. We will bring our grief, our hopes, and our faith, trusting in the One who hears every cry for peace.

Come and join us as we pause, reflect, and pray together. All are welcome.



from Jane

Music is such an important part of our life at church and is central to our faith. We've had a full summer of special music, a Sunday of hymn singing and history as well as a children's musical that was a tremendous success. As we move toward Christmas, yes, I said Christmas, I would like to extend a special invitation to any singer who is interested in singing with a choir as well as instrumentalists who have not made their talents known.....all God's creatures got a place in the choir!

Summer Choir

This is the final month for Summer Choir – we sing August 3 and 17. To join us, meet in the choir room at 8 am to rehearse. If you don't sing with one of the choirs regularly, this is your opportunity to meet new people and make a joyful noise to the Lord.

It's Time to SING and RING

August means it is time for our choirs to start up again for another joyful singing season.

HANDBELLS – Under the direction of JoAnn Luther, the bells rehearse in the sanctuary on Mondays from 6:30-8 pm. The first rehearsal is Monday, August 18.

Singing Choir Rehearsals start August 27!!

Our two singing choirs both meet Wednesday nights and sing three Sundays each month. All singers are welcome.....come try us out.

CELEBRATION SINGERS – This choir is directed by Jane Anderson and meets in the choir room Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:30 pm. Anyone who loves the music of the church is invited to join us.

CHANCEL CHOIR – This choir will be directed by Abe Gibson and meets in the Sanctuary Wednesday nights from 7:30-9 pm.

Jane Anderson
Director of Music
jane@umcstmarks.org



meet our

CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR

Abe Gibson Hits All the Right Notes

In August we will welcome Abe Gibson as the new St. Mark's UMC Chancel Choir Director. He is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arizona under the guidance of former SMUMC choir director Dr. Elizabeth Schauer. Previously, Abe was the Director of Music for Sanctuary Services at Church of the Lakes in Canton, Ohio where he directed all music activities including adult choirs, vocal ensembles, handbells, and a children's choir. He was also an adjunct professor of choral activities at Kent State University.

Abe has an M.A. in Music from Youngstown State where he was a graduate assistant in Choral Conducting with duties for recruitment of students as well as conducting rehearsals when needed.

He has a B.A. in Vocal Performance with Sacred Music emphasis from Seton Hill University, in Greensburg, PA.

He and his wife Rachel have an 18-month-old daughter Penelope. Abe assumes his new duties in mid-August.



Abe, Chancel Choir Director



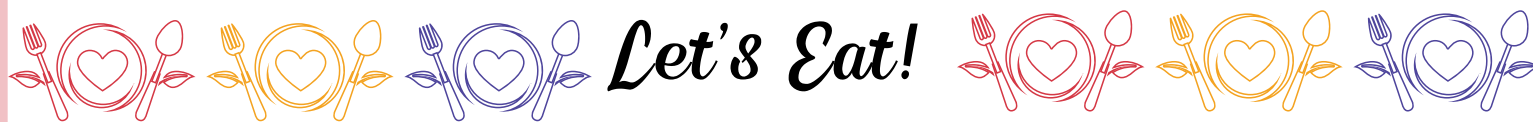
We invite your prayers for these individuals - some for health reasons, some for facing hard times, some just because! We would like to pray for you. Submit prayer requests by email to prayerchain@umcstmarks.org or on our website at umcstmarks.breezechms.com/form/PrayerRequest

Marva Brittle
Clara Campbell

April Duboce
Hiratsuka Family

Justin John
Priscilla and Jim McInnis

Sallie and Dave Schmidt
Catheryn Simpson



Join us as we take time to connect and share God's abundant blessings.

Sanctuary Campus Potluck

Join other members of our church family around the table at our monthly potluck on the Sanctuary Campus! Join us on **August 17**. Mark your calendars—we hope to see you there with a dish to share!

**Don't forget to bring an ingredient list. We have many people with food allergies. We have children and adults who are very allergic to nuts, especially peanuts. Nut free dishes are preferred!*

Grace at the Table

On **August 20**, we will meet in the Magee campus Fellowship Hall from 11:30 am - 1 pm to share a meal, have fellowship, prayer, discussion, and communion. The main dish will be provided, and everyone is invited to bring something to share.

Something Special at Sanctuary

Pastor Tu'ulauena Lolohea

Check out the joyful energy at our Sanctuary Campus this month as we step into a season full of connection, celebration, and spiritual growth!

We're especially excited about Park Day coming up this September—a fun-filled time of fellowship for all ages. It's a chance to come together as a church family in God's creation and enjoy being in community. We'll be sharing more details soon, so be sure to mark your calendars for September 21 at 5 pm.

In August, we will rejoice in a truly special moment—a baptism celebration, as we welcome someone into the family of faith. Alongside this, we're offering a New Member Class, providing a welcoming space for those who feel called to join our church and deepen their walk with Christ. Watch for details; anyone from either campus is invited to participate in the membership class.

As we gather, connect and serve together, we are reminded of the spirit of John Wesley, who called believers into intentional community and service. Throughout St. Mark's, we continue that legacy by fostering spaces where we can connect, support one another, and reach out in love.



All of this reflects our church's mission: *We gather, connect, and serve so all may experience the love of Christ.*

Whether it's through joyful events, meaningful worship, or simply being present with one another, we are excited for what's ahead—and we're grateful to be on this journey with each of you.

Join us Sunday if you haven't checked us out lately!



(520) 297-2062

Email: info@umcstmarks.org

Website: umcstmarks.org

YouTube: UMC St. Mark's AZ

Magee Campus

1431 W Magee Rd
Tucson, AZ 85704

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10 am
*live streamed at 10 am
on our website and YouTube*

Sanctuary Campus

8000 N Silverbell Rd
Tucson, AZ 85743

Sunday Worship 10 am

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Lynn Bartlow

Sanctuary Campus Pastor:

Tu'ulauena Lolohea

Associate Pastors:

Rev. Deborah Christine
Rev. Sharon Ragland

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

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WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR

Are you a movie buff?

I'm so old I remember heading to the video rental store each Sunday after church to pick out our two movies for the week. *The Gods Must Be Crazy...* *Bedknobs and Broomsticks...* *Hot Shots...* *Overboard...* *Pretty Woman...* We watched them all.

And I remember Siskel and Ebert, the movie critics who gave each film a thumbs up or thumbs down. When I was in seminary in Chicago, I even got to meet Siskel—we filmed in the same TV studio (ask me sometime!!)

Movies have always been more than entertainment for me. They've been sources of inspiration and hope. One of my favorites was *Bed of Roses*—I watched it on repeat and could quote every line. It wasn't just a romantic story; it spoke to something real in my life.

As we return to school and settle into late summer routines, we invite you to discover sacred lessons found in the stories we tell on screen. Sanctuary had a long tradition of using pop culture in a worship series, and we have continued the tradition here at St. Mark's.

This month, join us for a series called "*Courage to Be Real: Faith Lessons from the Movies*." Together, we'll explore deep spiritual questions—like *What Defines Me?* *Can I Be Seen for Who I Really Am?* and *Is This It?*—through the gospel of Luke and the wisdom of characters like Buzz Lightyear, Moana, Mirabel, Shrek, and the travelers on the yellow brick road.

Whether or not you've seen the movies, you'll find some encouragement for questions we wrestle with throughout all of life.

See you soon!
Pastor Lynn

