

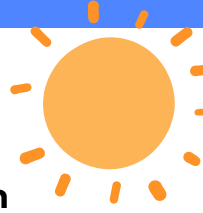
We gather, connect, and serve so all may experience the love of Christ.

St. Mark's Messenger

September 2025

All Church Picnic

Sunday, September 21
5:00 pm Continental Ranch



Come hungry, bring a dish to share, and get ready for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship! Our annual All-Church Picnic is more than just a meal—it's a time to connect with one another and welcome our neighbors.

As one church in two places, we don't often gather as one community. This picnic is a great chance to meet friends from both the Magee and Sanctuary campuses, share stories, and strengthen the bonds that unite us. At the same time, we'll be extending a warm invitation to those who live around the Sanctuary Campus to join us for games, music, conversation, and a seat at the table.

Chicken and burgers will be provided - bring a side dish or dessert, come ready to play and laugh, and help us make this a true celebration of community—old friends and new friends alike!



After the Amen!

Starting September 7 you are warmly invited to stay after worship for *After the Amen* — a time of conversation and reflection with one of the St. Marks Pastors or Leadership Directors.

Sunday Mornings, 11:15 am in the library at the Magee Campus

The service may end with "Amen," but the conversation doesn't have to. *After the Amen* is a space to pause together and reflect on the day's Scripture and message. It's an open circle where questions are welcomed, insights are shared, and faith is deepened through dialogue. Whether you come eager to ask, ready to reflect, or simply to listen, this gathering offers a thoughtful way to carry the Word beyond the sanctuary and into our daily lives.

All are welcome — join us as we listen, learn, and grow together.

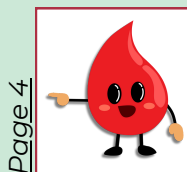
New Member Class!

Our next new member class will be **September 13, 9 am to noon**. Are you interested in making St. Mark's your church home? Join us to learn about the history of Methodism and St. Mark's, discover what we believe, and explore where God is leading us as a community of faith in Tucson. All are welcome—especially those considering membership.



Contact Tricia for more information!
tricia@umcstmarks.org

In this Issue:



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 video study called Amplify through the end of September. All are welcome!

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

Seekers Sunday Bible Study - Sundays at 11:15am in rooms 17/18. We continue our walk with the Jesus in Luke's gospel. We will be discussing some familiar parables such as the prodigal son and the persistent widow, all while Jesus and his disciples get closer to Jerusalem. Please bring a Bible and join us at any time for both laughter and insightful discussion.

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

A Bible study is held at **Mountain View Retirement Village** on Monday mornings at 10:30 am in the conference room, 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.

Wednesday Morning Study - starting September 3 at 10 am in rooms 17/18 with the six-week study: *Luke - Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* by Adam Hamilton. In the Gospel of Luke

Roadrunner Book Club - 9:30 am Wednesdays at Roadrunner Coffee, Linda Vista and Thornydale. We will be reading *The North Woods* by Douglas Hoover. Please contact Carol Witherspoon.

Bible and a Bite - Thursdays at 12:30 returns to the home of Donene Potyok. Bring something to eat and drink and the most current Upper Room for study, prayer, and conversation.

Open Minds Book Group - Friday, 9/26, at 9 am on Zoom to discuss *The Orchard: a Memoir*, by Adele Crockett Robertson (1997). After her father's death, Kitty Robertson leaves her job and moves to her childhood home to preserve her family's small apple orchard. Single-handedly, she struggles with bone-grinding work, broken machinery, and a mountain of debt during the Great Depression. This is a tale of courage, goodness, and unexpected rewards.

Common Grounds - 6 pm the third Saturday of each month. Contact Rachel @ Rachel@umcstmarks.org.

The **Marksmen** are a group of friendly retired and semi-retired men. They generally meet the 1st and 3rd 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 3rd Sunday of each month in the Library on the Magee Campus at 9am. Contact Kitty Tobin for more information.

Pub Theology - 6 pm the last Monday of the month at rotating locations. Drink and think (and eat) while discussing life and faith. Contact info@umcstmarks.org



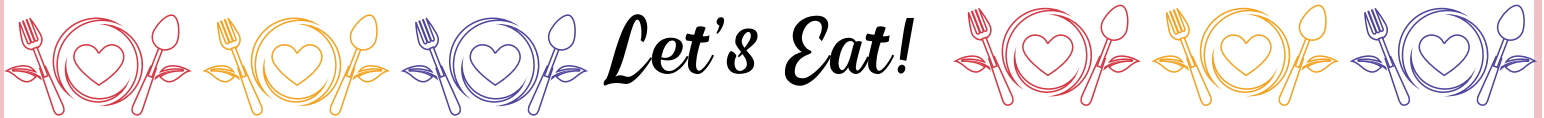
The **Mark-a-Ritas** are a group of women who believe it's important to have girlfriends at church, too! The Mark-a-Ritas meet monthly and take turns planning the activities. Whether an event is strictly social or includes a study or service project, you can count on plenty of conversation and laughter! Contact Susan Putt.(see page 3)

Pickleball meets 7:30am-9:30am Wednesdays at 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.



Join the Mark-a-ritas for a day out to tour the historic downtown Fox Theatre on **Tuesday, September 9 at noon**. The hour and a half tour highlights the interesting history and incredible stories of the theater. See how the art deco of the twenties is merged with the style of the Southwest to create beautiful architecture. There are some stairs on the tour. There is no cost for the tour, but donations are appreciated. If you are interested in going, contact markaritas.tucson@gmail.com. We will meet in the south parking lot of the church at 11:15 am and make arrangements to travel downtown together.



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

Grace at the Table

On **September 17**, join us 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; bring something 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 and peanuts. Peanut and nut free dishes are preferred!*

Sanctuary Campus Potluck

We generally hold a potluck after worship the third Sunday of the month. This month, join us instead at 5 pm for our picnic & cookout! Details on the front page

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.

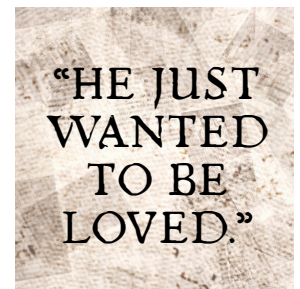
- Finance Committee



Coffee with Pastor Lynn

- ① Come chat with Pastor Lynn!
- ② Ask questions, complain about something, get more information about something... whatever you want!
- ③ Join her **September 17 from 9:30-11 am** at Barnes and Noble Bookstore at the former Foothills Mall. Grab a drink or just come chat!

Coffee with Pastor Lynn



This is the argument that my nephews used to persuade me to read Frankenstein. Although I had never read the book, I had the wrong impression of what it was about. It turns out that there are quite a few theological and moral questions raised by Mary Shelley. Please find a copy at your favorite bookstore, and join me for a discussion the evening of **Wednesday, October 29**. We will explore some of those questions through the lens of one of history's most famous fictional monsters.

-Brenda Hunter





United
Women
in Faith

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

2 Save the Dates

Craft Circle meets at **9 am Tuesdays, Sept. 2 and 23**, in Rooms 17/18 at the Magee Campus, to work on items for the Masterpiece Festival in November. Please bring ideas and completed projects.

Learn More about TMM!

Join the ladies of United Women in Faith at our unit meeting **Tuesday, Sept. 9** in Rooms 17/18 at the Magee Campus. Fellowship and refreshments begin at 9:30 am. The meeting begins at 10 am.

Grace Circle meets at **9 am Tuesday Sept. 16** in Rooms 17/18 at the Magee Campus. This is a planning meeting and members will make hygiene bags for Primavera Women, followed by a lunch outing.

Blessed to be a Blessing!



We are collecting items to make hygiene bags for women at Primavera Foundation!

These can be dropped off in the courtyard (Magee) or at the red table (Sanctuary) on August 31 or September 7, or left in the UW Faith box in the office. Travel-size items are preferred.

*Praise God,
from whom all
blessings flow;
Praise Him,
all creatures
here below;
Praise Him, Above
ye heav'nly host
Praise Father, Son
and Holy Ghost*

Shampoo
Conditioner
Body Wash
Disposable shaving razor
Shaving cream
Deodorant
Vaseline
Toothpaste .85 oz
Chap stick
Comb
Laundry detergent

Do you have organizational skills? Are you looking for a way to use those skills?

Join the Craft Circle Leadership Team!
We are looking for a new Craft Circle Co-Leader to serve alongside Johanna Eubank. After many years of wonderful leadership, Bonnie (& Russ) Sargent are stepping back, and we are deeply grateful for their service.

The Craft Circle is a fun, creative group of 15+ women who meet year-round to prepare for our big Masterpiece Festival (November) and Sunday Morning Craft Sale (December). You don't need to sew, knit, or crochet—just bring a little organization, creativity, and a heart for fellowship.

Interested?

Bonnie and Johanna would love to chat and share more about how easy (and joyful!) it is to help lead this special ministry.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Our late Summer American Red Cross blood drive is coming on **Communion Sunday, September 7**. It will take place on our Magee Campus in our Fellowship Hall. Appointments start at 7:30 am through 12:15 pm. On-line scheduling is open now! <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=stmarks>

ALL blood types are needed! Both whole blood and Power Red donors are needed! Join us in the cool air conditioning! Contact Cheri Schwartz at 602-320-2152 for info.



Use your phone to scan this QR code to sign up now

Do you like music?
Do you like to sing? Do you like to ring?
Do you like to enjoy the musical talents of others?

STOP! This is your page!



Have you ever considered joining the choir?
Now is your chance to try out the choir with no long-term obligation.
Rehearsals have already begun, but it is not too late to join in the fun!

Bells of St. Mark's

Led by Joann Luther
Monday evenings,
6:30-8 pm in the sanctuary
jschockluther@gmail.com

Chancel Choir

Led by Abe Gibson
Wednesday evenings,
7:30-9 pm in the sanctuary
abe@umcstmarks.org

Celebration Singers

Led by Jane Anderson
Wednesday evenings,
6:15-7:25 pm in the music room
jane@umcstmarks.org



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Our Sunday Afternoon Concert Series Begins in September!
Select Sundays at 3 pm

Sunday Concert Series

- September 28 - Tucson Little Big Band
- October 5 - Tucson concert Band
- October 26 - Tucson Flute Club
- November - 30 Manhattan Dolls

+ November 23 - Tucson Girls Chorus Special Concert
In addition to the concert series

St Mark's United Methodist Church 2025-2026

magatour MUSIC CAMP KIDS



Photos taken by: Vance Nelson, Rachel Mosher, and Tricia Chester



Crazy cards is Back!

Friday, **October 10** at 6:30 pm in the Magee campus Fellowship Hall. Sign up on September 28 at both campuses and Oct. 5 at the Magee Campus. Cost is \$5 per person due at sign-up. We ask each household to bring a dessert. Questions? Call Carol Fouch in the church directory.





Missions Ministry



PRIMAVERA FOUNDATION

Special thanks to our office staff (and Pastor Lynn's kids!) for providing and serving at Primavera Men's Shelter in August.

If you would like to help out with this Mission, please contact Kathy Howard for more information

From Left: Pastor Deb, Will, Kate, Lora, and Ed

Not pictured: Pastor Lynn



Adult Mission Trip CHINLE PLANTING HOPE

October 20, 21 and 22

This is our first Adult Mission Trip since covid, so it will be smaller than previous trips, accepting just the first 9 people who RSVP.



Chinle Planting Hope has requested donations for 100 elders consisting of traditional holiday foods. Canned vegetables such as sweet potatoes, green beans, corn, and cranberries are requested. Stuffing, macaroni and cheese, cornbread mix, mushroom soup, fried onions and gravy packets would be appreciated. They would also like Folgers coffee and teas. Pot holders and kitchen clothes would be helpful.

We will begin collecting these donations sometime in September and/or October, to be determined at a later date.

What To Expect:

October 20 - Travel Day

Guided trip to Spider Rock in Canyon de Chelly National Monument
Stay overnight in Chinle at a motel

October 21 - Full Service Day

Packing baskets or boxes for the elders for their Thanksgiving celebration
They will prepare a meal for us that evening.

October 22 - Service & Travel Day

Half day of service, returning to Tucson in the afternoon.

Please contact Karen Berry if you are interested.

Peanut Butter Party 2025

Spread the Love

Peanut Butter Party Champions!

The results are in—*this year's ICS Peanut Butter Party brought in an amazing 14,600 jars of peanut butter* for families in need! Thanks to your generosity, **St. Mark's UMC led the way with 3,543 jars**, followed by Christ the King Episcopal Church (1,179 jars) and Mountain Shadows Presbyterian (1,000 jars). What an incredible outpouring of love for our neighbors!

As church member and ICS volunteer Robert Kittrell reminds us, "The real winner is ICS; the need is growing while the overall food contributions are not keeping pace. Our work going forward is to exceed our previous contributions every month."

So let's keep the momentum going. Hunger doesn't take a break when the contest ends. You can bring food donations every Saturday morning in the church parking lot, drop them off during the week in the church office, or bring them with you on Sunday mornings. Every jar and every can makes a difference.

Together, we've proven that when we gather, connect, and serve, our community is stronger and families are fed. Let's keep it going—one jar at a time.

Youth Ministry

LATEST NEWS FOR HIGH SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND PRETEEN STUDENTS

Our Youth Group needs a Fundraising Team! Interested in helping Rachel organize and run some fundraisers, including our 2nd Annual Gala? This is open to adults and students. Please contact Rachel today to be added to the list for when we begin meeting and starting this important work!



Students in 4th-7th Grade!
Join this special small
group ministry here at St.
Mark's JUST FOR YOU!

Come to Project Blueprint
and help us build our fun
year ahead!

**Sept. 7
1-3PM**



We are leading worship
on September 28! Come
join us on September 14
to plan the worship
service, and sign up for
how you will serve. We
need all hands on deck to
make this an AMAZING
Youth led worship service!

**Sept. 14
4-6PM**

What do pretzels have
to do with prayer?
Beside the fact that
Rachel loves both, of
course! Come find out,
make some delicious
treats to eat and some
to take home, and play
some stellar games
while you're at it!
**Sept. 7
4-6PM**



Back by popular demand!
The Youth take over the
Magee Campus! The youth
will offer a worship
service to the
congregation during both
the 8:30 and 10:00
services on Magee
Campus. How would YOU
like to serve?

**Sept. 28
8:30 and 10:00 AM**



So...who wants to play some 9-
Square, Gaga Ball, and
PaddleSmash! I have so
selflessly volunteered the youth
to bring our newest and most
fun games to the All Church
Picnic! All you have to do
is...PLAY! Meet at the
Continental Ranch Community
Park for some fun, food, and
fellowship with our whole
church family!
**Sept. 21
5-7PM**



At the Senior Sendoff,
some of us learned the
super fun, crazy game of
Nertz. Let's take it up a
notch for a Super Nertz
Tournament! Multiple
rooms in the rotation, all
kinds of crazy fun, and
snacks!! Don't miss it!

**Sept. 28
4-6PM**

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!

Confirmation News



Another year of Confirmation is about to begin! Confirmation here at St. Mark's is a year long class for students in 8th grade and older, who have not yet been Confirmed. Our Confirmation program is a year long commitment where

students learn about ways we gather, connect, and serve as members of St. Mark's, of the church universal, and how it connects to our history. At the end of the year, students are given the opportunity to decide if they would like to be confirmed, and become members of St. Mark's.

Interested? Join Rachel in the Wesley House on September 14 from 6:15-7:00 to learn more and to sign up! This meeting is for parents and students.

If you already know that you are interested, register at this QR code!



Sierra Service Project

Missions is a really important part of our ministry here at St. Mark's. Since 1985, St. Mark's has sent youth (students completing grades 8-12) and adults to sites around the western United States to serve with the program Sierra Service Project (SSP). Plans are starting to come together for next summer!

Dates and sites have not yet been announced for Summer 2026, but it's not too early for us start thinking! We will get to bid for our site and week in early October. Want to be a part of that conversation, and help select our ideal week? Sign up today to be on the SSP 2026 Interest list today!



Zendaya C	9/1
Charlotte C	9/11
Jenna O	9/27

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

ROOTS

rooted in faith
grounded in love



Fall Sunday School

This fall, we are kicking off a new series- Roots, where will discuss being rooted in our faith, grounded in love. What exactly DOES the Bible say about how we practice our faith!? Join us as we look at some of the letters in Revelation (and a few other passages thrown in for good measure!) and how they can apply to OUR lives today. These letters may have been written to churches other than St. Mark's, but I bet we can learn an awful lot from them anyway!

Registration Forms



Registration Forms/Permission Slips for this school year are available now! It is important to update this annually, so that we always have the most up to date information for each of our students. This year's form is easier to fill out than ever!

*registration for elementary students can be found under the Resources tab at www.umcstmarks.org



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!



Church & Society



Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated September 15 – October 15, honoring the histories and cultures of Americans with roots in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. First established as a week in 1968 and expanded to a month in 1988, it highlights the vital contributions of Latiné Americans in shaping our democracy and national identity.

Today, one in four U.S. children is Latiné, yet history books often overlook their stories. It is important to recognize the impact Latinés have made in science, art, sports, activism, and politics. Here in Tucson, Mayor Regina Romero—daughter of Mexican immigrants—became the city's first female Latiné mayor in 2019.

Hispanic Heritage Month invites us to celebrate vibrant cultures, honor resilience, and continue building a more inclusive future together.



International Friends Update



When my kids were little, we hosted international students for a three-week summer exchange. They loved playing with our kids, and our kids gained exposure to new languages, cultures, and accents. It was a simple but powerful way to expand their world.

Now, we are partnering with International Friends to create that same kind of opportunity for all ages. International Friends pairs community members with international students for monthly meetups, fostering connection and cultural exchange.

You can learn more at short presentations on **Sunday, Sept 7** (Sanctuary Campus) and **Sept 21** (Magee Campus) after worship. Training is offered via Zoom on Sept 20 (optional), and all are invited to the Fall Kickoff Picnic on **Oct 19** at Reid Park.

To volunteer or explore what's involved, fill out the application here:

👉 IFriendstucson.org & join us.

—Joylee Gathings for Church and Society

Is God calling you to leadership here at St. Mark's?

Lay Servant Ministries is one of the most significant lay leadership development programs available within the United Methodist connection. Through this equipping and empowering system, lay servants have the opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who then go and make other disciples.



An introductory course for Lay Servant Ministries is being offered this fall, here in Tucson. This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. It is an overview of the program and concentrates on the importance of three (3) areas: Leading, Caring, and Communicating (the pillars or core ministries of lay servant ministries).

This class will be at St John's UMC in Tucson (in person) on Saturdays, September 27 and October 4. Talk with Pastor Lynn if you're interested.

An Installation Service For The District Superintendent Rev. Javier Olivares

You are Invited to the
Installation service for
Rev. Javier Olivares



Oct. 18 2025

Saturday 3PM St. Mark's UMC
1431 W Magee Rd, Tucson, AZ 85704

Desert Southwest Annual Conference



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

Deb Cushman-Goodyke
April DuBoce

Justin John
Pat Small

Jay & Margaret Suchland
Lora Wineinger and her parents

What's Happening with Congregational Care at St. Mark's?

- The new Care Line is up and running. If you need a pastor call 520-783-8837 or email pastoral_care@umcstmarks.org. Leave a message, and I or another pastor will get back to you.
- The list of those from our church who are homebound or in care facilities has been updated. Letters are going out to people on the list to let them know that someone will be calling them or their caregiver to find out if we have all the correct info for them, if they have prayer requests and if someone is visiting them from the church (or if they would like a visitor). If someone you know from our church is homebound or in a care facility and doesn't receive a letter or phone call, contact me using the email above.
- A new Lay Visitation Ministry is formed. A lunch was held on 8/19 for interested persons. They completed a questionnaire listing their interests and gifts and a great discussion was held which yielded lots of good suggestions. More to come on this...
- Pastors are in touch with people in hospitals, rehab and in their homes, through visits, calls, emails and texts, as needed.

I'm two months into my work as the Associate Minister of Congregational Care (part-time) and enjoying building a congregational care system and spending time listening to and being with people. Praise God!

- Rev. Sharon Ragland



Rooted in Faith, Grounded in Love

This fall at St. Mark's we begin Rooted in Faith, Grounded in Love, a worship series exploring the letters to the seven churches in Revelation. These ancient messages still speak to us today, calling us to faithfulness and love in the midst of challenge. Each week we'll pair one of these letters with a spiritual discipline — practices like prayer, worship, service, and generosity — that help us grow deeper roots in God and stronger connections with one another.

Join us as we learn how to live as people grounded in love, following Christ in our world today.



AWARENESS MONTH *brunch*

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a brunch will be held on **Saturday, October 11, at 10 am** in the Magee Campus Fellowship Hall.

This gathering is intended to honor the strength and resilience of those whose lives have been touched by breast cancer. It will be a time of fellowship, encouragement, and community support.

All individuals who are currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer, as well as those who are survivors, are cordially invited to attend.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

An Update from the Finance Committee September 2025

Whether you escape to cooler climates or tough out the three digit heat in Tucson and await the monsoons, we hope you enjoyed your summer. St. Mark's budgeted for and completed several projects this summer.

- Trustees managed the process of resurfacing the Magee parking lot. Maintaining an aging facility is a challenge and although this was an expensive project, repaving would have been greater future cost.

- Sanctuary successfully completed their relocation to Coyote Trails Elementary Schools.
- SPRC filled three open positions.

Thank you for your dedication and continued financial support of St. Mark's. The above projects provide the infrastructure we need to fulfill our mission for outreach and service to our community.

As a reminder, in last month's Messenger, we announced a free Estate Planning Workshop at the Magee Campus on September 28 at 11:15 am (see page 3). Our speakers are trusted members of St. Mark's and there will be no pressure to use their services—they are simply offering guidance and answers to your questions. You can also visit our website which has been updated with estate planning information.



Greetings in the name of Christ!



Pastor T's Corner

This past Sunday was a day I will never forget. It marked my very first baptism as a pastor. Growing up in the United Methodist Church as a pastor's kid, I always looked forward to baptisms. But to stand there, to feel the holy water, to read the sacred liturgy, and to lead this moment of spiritual significance—it moved me deeply. It was more than a ceremony; it was a holy moment filled with the presence of God.



Baptism is one of the sacred and holy sacraments we practice in the Methodist Church. It is a beautiful and powerful way we witness God's grace firsthand. That is why, in the Methodist tradition, we baptize infants—because even though the child may not yet understand what is happening, God's love and grace are present. We call this **prevenient grace**—God's grace that goes before us, drawing us closer to Him from the very beginning.

First, I want to give all glory and honor to God. Second, I want to thank the Skaggs family—especially baby Bennett—for allowing me the privilege of being part of this sacred milestone. And finally, I want to thank our entire church community at St. Mark's UMC, particularly our Sanctuary campus.

We made sure this baptism was a shared celebration. The children sat in the front, the Skaggs family close behind, and the entire congregation stood as one—honoring the initiation of this precious child into the body of Christ, the Church.

Our church's mission is simple and powerful: We gather. We connect. We serve. So that all may experience the love of Christ. And this Sunday, we truly lived that mission out.

My heart is full of joy. Thank you, St. Mark's family, for walking this journey of faith with me. I look forward to many more sacred moments as we continue to grow together in Christ's love.



*In the grace and peace of Christ,
Pastor Tuulauena Lolohea*

Pastor T's Corner

St. Mark's
United Methodist

(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 a.m.
live streamed at 10 a.m.
on our website and YouTube

Sanctuary Campus

8000 N Silverbell
Tucson, AZ 85743

Sunday Worship 10

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Lynn Bartlow

Sanctuary Campus Pastor:

Tu'ulauena Lolohea

Associate Pastor:

Deborah Christine

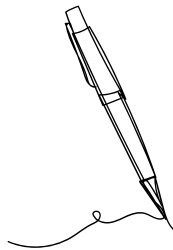
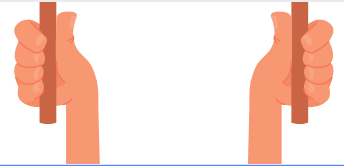
Associate Pastor:

Sharon Ragland

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

Address Service Requested

If you would like to receive the Messenger electronically and discontinue your paper copy, please submit your request to messenger@umcstmarks.org



words from our Pastor

Last month, my social media was filled with pictures of students returning to school—kindergarteners just starting out, freshmen in new schools, and college students embarking on new adventures. Watching these milestones reminded me how deeply education is woven into our faith.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, believed we cannot love God fully without also engaging our minds—studying scripture, asking questions, and learning from the world around us. For Wesley, education was a means of grace, one of the ways God shapes us into disciples. That conviction is why Methodists founded schools and seminaries, and why lifelong learning remains at the heart of our tradition.



I see that commitment alive in our community today. Three of our staff members—Rachel at Candler School of Theology, Tu'ulau at Claremont School of Theology, and Edwin at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary—are pursuing seminary degrees, deepening their ability to lead and serve. This fall, new classes and studies are beginning here at St. Mark's, giving us all opportunities to stretch, question, and grow together.

Education is one way we live out our mission.

When we open our minds as well as our hearts, learning becomes an act of discipleship. May we, like Wesley, be people of both wisdom and faith. I invite you to join a class or study this fall and discover how God will use what we learn, as much as what we love, to transform the world.

See you soon,
Pastor Lynn