

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME!

This Advent season, join us in worship and Midweek as we focus on *Making Room* for the Christ child. We start by decorating and “making glad” our sanctuary space. But Advent is really about making room in ourselves, our community, and our world for God’s presence. Each week explores a way we prepare space — in contrast to what usually fills it. Join us!

Invite your friends and family to join you for Christmas Eve services and check out what other events are happening this month on page 4!

December 24 Christmas Eve services!

11 am Lessons and Carols with soup lunch afterwards (Magee)

4 pm Family-friendly service (Magee)

5 pm Worship at Sanctuary Campus

7 pm Traditional service with Choirs and candles (Magee)

9 pm Contemplative service with candles and communion (Magee)



ADVENT [MIDWEEK]

GATHER CONNECT SERVE

Make room this Advent for three special midweek gatherings!

Make room this Advent for a time to recenter yourself in what really matters. Come and go each evening in a “choose what works for you” opportunity! **December 3, 10, and 17** the schedule will look like this:

5:00 pm - Service of prayer and communion in the sanctuary

5:30 pm - Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

6:15 pm – You are invited to attend:

Choir Rehearsals

Making Room This Advent – Advent Study, led by Rev. Bob Holliday in the Library

Continue visiting in the Fellowship Hall. A kids’ area and a different weekly prayer station will also be available.

Come and prepare your heart for the season. We hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Edwin: edwin@umcstmarks.org

Christmas Offering: Making Room for Our Neighbors



This Christmas, we have the chance to share the love of Christ in a tangible way. The Covenant Council has designated 100% of our Christmas Offering to support Nash Neighbors, our long-standing partnership with Nash Elementary.

Because of this ministry, more than 50 families — including over 100 children — receive monthly food support. Your gifts also make it possible for teachers to begin the school year with the supplies their students need, without paying out of their own pockets.

Every bag of food, every box of crayons, every volunteer hour is a way St. Mark’s makes room for our neighbors to thrive.

Your Christmas gift will help us continue this life-changing work.

Let’s make room for hope, nourishment, and love this season — together.

Learn more about Nash Neighbors from volunteer and church member, Jim Hanna on page 6



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 are discussing *The Bible With and Without Jesus* by Amy Jill Levine. 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. On December 7 and 14 will review the book of 4 Maccabees. What?! You don't recognize that from the list of Biblical books you memorized? It is one of the books of the Apocrypha, a collection of books that didn't make it into the official books of the Bible (the Catholic Canon), but are still taken seriously by many Protestant Christians. A theme of 4 Maccabees is the superiority of reason and law over emotion (or so the commentaries say). *Seekers will not meet on December 21 and 28*, but will start 2026 by studying the book of Joshua. Please register online or contact facilitator Brenda Hunter for Zoom information.

After the Amen - Sundays at 11:15 am Library. Join us for deeper conversation around the sermon.

A Bible study is held at **Mountain View Retirement Village** on Monday mornings at 10:30 am in the 2nd floor conference room. All are welcome, even if you don't live in the Village! Talk to Marge Sogn for more information. *More details on page 4*

Wednesday Morning Study - beginning November 26 at 10 am in rooms 17/18 we will look at the bedlam which surrounds the contemporary celebration of Christmas. Contact Marcia Rostad for more information. *More details on page 4*

Roadrunner Book Club - 9:30 am Wednesdays at *Roadrunner Coffee*, Linda Vista and Thornydale. We will be reading *A Christmas by the Sea* by Melody Carlson. Please contact Carol Witherspoon.

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

Bible Study at Country Club at La Cholla - Thursdays at 1:30 pm in the chapel. See Linda Walker for more information.

Open Minds Book Group - Friday, 12/19, at 9 am on Zoom will discuss *Dakota: a Spiritual Geography*, by Kathleen Norris (2001). Meditative stories offer a tribute to an area of the Great Plains that is both desolate and beautiful, harsh and forgiving, steeped in history and myth. Norris offers a way to begin understanding this region and the assurance that wherever we go, we'll find our own spiritual landscape.



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 Serial Grillers on Cortaro. Drink and think (and eat) while discussing life and faith. Contact info@umcstmarks.org

Common Grounds - 6 pm the third Saturday of each month. A space for youngish adults (in their 20s - 40s) in any walk of life to meet and connect.

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 at the court in the Magee campus north parking lot.

The **Veteran's Breakfast Group** meets on the fourth Friday starting in January 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.

Mark-a-ritas Christmas Tea & Potluck



All St. Mark's women are invited to a festive Christmas Tea and Potluck on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share and a brief story about a favorite holiday tradition. Enjoy Christmas music on the harp by Kathy Narney, along with a selection of teas and warm fellowship.

Please also consider bringing small stuffed animals for the Red Cross to share with children displaced by emergencies.



RSVP to Celeste Pardee at cpardee@arizona.edu by Friday, Dec. 5 so we can prepare enough place settings. All are welcome!

FLOWERS

Christmas Poinsettias

Celebrating a St. Mark's tradition, we will decorate both sanctuaries with poinsettias and Christmas cactus. Contributions toward the flowers can be made in honor or memory of someone by completing the order form and returning it with your check to the church office. Order online at Poinsettias <https://umcstmarks.breezechms.com/form/flowers>

Deadline is Dec. 15

Altar Flowers Signup (Magee)

2026 calendar cards are now available in the narthex. You're invited to help beautify our worship by providing altar flowers. To dedicate flowers for a Sunday, sign up on the board in the Sanctuary narthex or call the church office at 520-297-2062. Flower dedications are a wonderful way to celebrate special occasions or honor loved ones.



ADVENT STUDIES



Advent Study at Mountain View Retirement Village



An Advent Bible study will meet on Mondays at 10:30 am in the second-floor conference room at Mountain View Retirement Village. Using *The Uncluttered Heart* by Beth Richardson, we will prepare our lives and hearts for the coming of Christ. A study guide and Bibles are provided—no book purchase needed.

Class dates are December 1, 8, 15, and 22. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Marge Sogn.

Advent Study at Barnes & Noble Café

Join us for an Advent study on Mondays at 6:30 pm, beginning December 1 at the Barnes & Noble café on N. La Cholla Blvd. We will be reading *When God Comes Down* by James A. Harnish, exploring the lives of those who witnessed the miracle of the Incarnation. Together we'll reflect on the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary, and the Innkeeper, and learn to notice God's presence amid the busyness of the season through worship, Scripture, and prayer. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Marlyce Wright



Wednesday Morning Study Advent Classes

Join us for a four-week Advent study beginning November 26. Using past Advent resources and video clips, we'll explore a variety of themes: the "bedlam" of contemporary Christmas, the barren women chosen to bear children who lead us toward Jesus, how John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord, and the ordinary people woven into the Christmas story.

No book is required, and you are welcome to attend any or all sessions. The class meets Wednesdays from 10–11:30 am in Rooms 17/18 and on Zoom. If you need the Zoom link, please register by emailing the class leader, Marcia Rostad.

When the Season Feels Heavy, You Don't Have to Walk Alone

For many, Christmas is a season of light and celebration. But for others, it can feel painfully heavy — a time when grief, loneliness, illness, or strained relationships rise to the surface. That's why each year we offer our Longest Night Service, a quiet, gentle worship experience that makes space for honesty, healing, and hope (see below). It is a reminder that God meets us even in the shadows.

If this season is difficult for you — or for someone you love — please know that St. Mark's offers ongoing support long after the candles of Christmas are blown out.

St. Mark's offers several ways to find support and connection:

- Our Counselor in Residence provides confidential, professional care.
- Grief Support and Chronic Illness & Pain Connection groups offer safe places to share your story.
- AA, Al-Anon, and CODA groups meet throughout the week for those seeking recovery and healthier relationships.

If you need a place to talk, rest, or simply breathe, we invite you to come. This community holds space for you — in this season and beyond.

A Turning from Darkness to Light

A service of readings, candlelight, piano and harp music for:

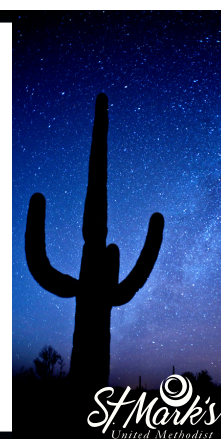
For those whose lives have been touched by loss...

For those who are having trouble experiencing joy in this season...

For those who long for the darkness of the season to turn toward light...

Longest Night Service
3 pm Sunday, December 21

Please join us in the Magee campus sanctuary; all are welcome.



Mark your calendars and call your friends!

Throughout December Advent Studies *Details page 3*

December 6 at 7 pm Sonoran Bells Concert *Magee Campus*

December 7 Craft and Bake Sale *Details page 5*

December 14 Christmas Cantata

December 20 Christmas Caroling

Come fill your hearts with the music of the season to prepare for the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Christmas Cantata – Journey of Promises

Magee Campus sanctuary

Join us Sunday, **December 14 at 3 pm** as St. Mark's choirs and chamber orchestra present Joseph Martin's *Journey of Promises*. This inspiring Christmas cantata blends traditional hymns, new anthems, and beloved carols, celebrating God's promises fulfilled in the birth of Christ. All are welcome to this joyful musical worship experience.

Join us for worship Sunday, **December 28** as we continue our Christmas celebration by singing your favorite carols. Feel free to send your requests to jane@umcstmarks.org.



Christmas Caroling in Continental Ranch

Meet at the Continental Ranch Community Office behind Walgreens at 5:30 pm



We are restarting the tradition of Christmas caroling in Continental Ranch! On **December 20** we'll be walking through the neighborhood, singing songs of hope, peace, and joy. Caroling isn't just about music - it's a way of showing up for people. Even one song at someone's doorstep can brighten their day or remind them they're not alone. If you can come, we'd be so glad to have you.

UNSCREWED THEATRE IMPROV SHOW

Jan. 11 at 3 pm

Unscrewed Theater, dedicated to and producing of improvised

Magee Campus

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is teaching, performing, all forms of performances.





United
Women
in Faith

We seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

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

Craft & Bake Sale!

Sunday, Dec. 7 in the Fellowship Hall between services. Come shop for Christmas gifts, decorations, and useful handmade items such as microwave cozies, crocheted dish cloths, and cloth grocery bags.

Christmas Potluck

United Women in Faith will hold their Christmas potluck luncheon on **Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 10 am** in Fellowship Hall. All are warmly invited. Please bring a dish to share.

I recently attended a breakfast and accepted an award as the American Red Cross' "Rookie of the Year - 2025". The program included many stories from parents, recipients and helicopter deliveries of lifesaving blood provided by the Red Cross. They reminded all that blood cannot be created in a lab and they are grateful for each donor and pint freely given. I am honored to be a part of a church that hosts a quarterly blood drive and thank you for your continued participation. Please realize the impact you and St. Mark's have in our community and beyond. The Red Cross acknowledges and is grateful that St. Mark's is an active blood drive supporter.

From, your Blood Program Leader and 6 gallon donor

Red Cross Holiday Blood Drive – Sunday, December 14

The holiday season often brings an increased need for blood donations, as travel and celebrations can lead to more accidents and emergencies. A local helicopter medic noted that Red Cross blood supplies are often crucial in treating victims of serious automobile crashes.

Please consider giving the gift of life this Christmas season!

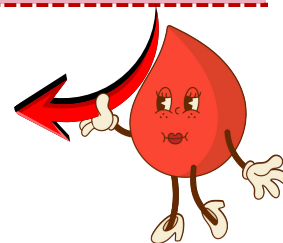
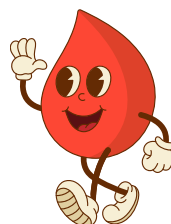
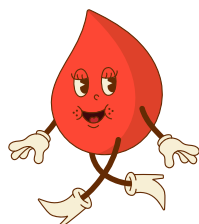
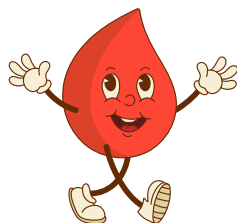
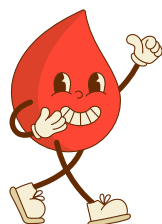
♦ Sign up today: www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=stmarks

Teens 16 and older may also donate with prior parental permission.

For questions or help signing up, please contact Cheri Schwartz.



Pro Tip: use your phone to scan the QR code to sign up



SEEKING SSP SPONSORS



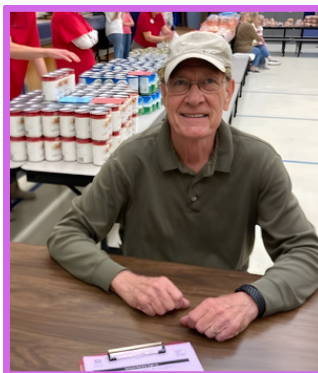
St. Mark's has sent volunteers to Sierra Service Project since **1985**. It's such an amazing and transformative experience. There is no greater joy than seeing the amazing growth students go through in this week of service. Last year, for the first time in many years, we even had a wait list all the way up until a few weeks before we left! As costs **AND** registration goes up, so must our fundraising! This year, ***we need to raise \$20,000 and we need your help!*** Interested in sponsoring a student? Click here: <https://umcstmarks.breezechms.com/form/SSPsponsor>



Missions Ministry

meet our NEIGHBOR

**NASH VOLUNTEER:
JIM HANNA**



¡Bienvenido! (Welcome!)

My personal experience in getting involved in Nash Neighbors Missions at St. Mark's is a bit low-key, slow and somewhat indirect.

Our St. Mark's web site states "Missions is an exciting area of Ministry at St. Mark's". I certainly agree with that but I have been a member for eight years and had never zeroed in on the excellent information on our

website that explains the "Nash Neighbors" program between St. Marks UMC and E. C. Nash Elementary that began in late 2002.

My journey began when Carolyn and I moved to Tucson from Hudson, OH eight years ago. St Mark's was very welcoming, friendly and supportive. In the summer of 2024 while chatting with John Cecilia after the service, I discovered that he and his wife Carol were teaching introductory Spanish to a small group from the Nash Market volunteers in order to help them in their food distribution work at Nash Elementary.



I have a strong desire to become fluent in Spanish and John graciously allowed me to join the class. After a few classes I realized that I would like to help at the Nash School Market food distribution.

I have been totally impressed and thankful for this faithful, dedicated group of Christians carrying out the Lord's work in partnering with local schools to help meet the needs of students and to support teachers and staff. The strong support of the St. Mark's congregation and leadership is greatly appreciated.

In addition to the normal set up and distribution of the food I get to help greet the family adult picking up the food and to help them with the school log in sheet. I have a lot of fun greeting the families in Spanish or English. I somehow manage to work in some mixture of confusion but the folks are very kind. It is a privilege and a pleasure to greet and talk to individuals. The school staff and the recipient families are very appreciative.

¡Dondequiera que estés, Dios está contigo! (Wherever you are, God is with you!), Jim Hanna



Market on the Move with its offering of 60 pounds of fresh produce for only \$10 will be in our parking lot Jan. 3, 2026 from 8-10 am. It will continue the first Saturday of the month through May. Come early and bring a friend. This is open to everyone. Let's keep surplus veggies out of the land fill.



SHOE DRIVE



**20
25**

During Advent, we are talking a lot about making space. What about space in your shoe closet!? St. Mark's Children and Youth are coordinating a fantastic fundraiser that will help us all! Bring your used sneakers on Sunday mornings in Advent, and place them in the collection bins. We will send them to GotSneakers (a zero waste shoe recycling company), who will send us a check for the sneakers! These sneakers are then either recycled or reused, depending on what shape the shoes are in! It's a really cool company, a really cool mission, AND a cool fundraiser for our Youth Missions and Ministries! Look for our collections on Sundays, or stop by the office during the week! If you have shoes other than sneakers, we will happily donate them to TMM to be reused locally.



Youth Ministry

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

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!



It's like Hide and Seek. It's like Sardines. It's like Tag. It's like...a history lesson.

Most importantly- it's a TON of fun! This is one you definitely want your running shoes, and your best tag and hide and seek skills.

Don't miss it! See you then.

December 7

4-6 PM

This one is back by popular demand! Come build some fun Lego creations, make some delicious waffle bar concoctions...the possibilities are endless! Have any toppings ideas for the Waffle Bar? let Rachel know ASAP!



December 14

4-6 PM



Let's go to the movies! The movie "David" comes out this month, and it looks great! With all the craziness of finals, Christmas, and everything else...let's take a break. As soon as the movie times are released, check your email, text, socials, all the things...we will meet at the Wesley House and drive to the theater together. \$5 for the movie, bring money for snacks!

(scholarships are available) \$5

December 21

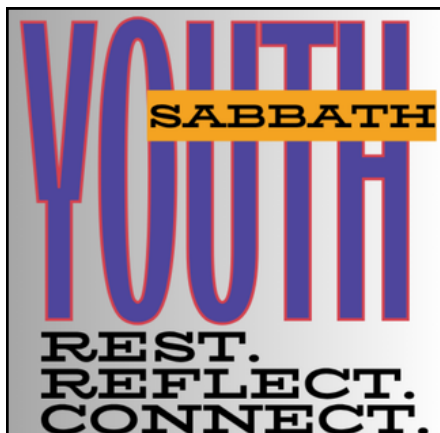
TIME TBA

The Youth will once again lead the 11AM Lessons and Carols service. You guys have done such a great job for the last few years- I am excited for this year's service! A sign up form will be coming out soon. Please let Rachel know if you are interested in reading as a part of the service.



December 24

11AM



December is such a hectic time, isn't it! Between school performances, finals, Christmas, and travelling...you deserve a break! We will not meet on December 28. Take that time to rest, relax, and spend time with your family! We will see you on the 31st!

December 28

Well, last year it didn't work out, so let's try again! I want to count down to the new year with you! But...I'm old and probably can't stay up until midnight. So let's jump in early, and count down to 12...noon!

Join me for all the stereotypical countdown activities from 10:30AM-12:30PM! I can't wait!



December 31

10:30AM-12:30PM

Sunday School meets weekly 10-11 in the Wesley House on 1st-4th Sundays. On 5th Sundays, join us for Family Worship!

Youth Ministry

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

GotSneakers?

We have a GREAT fundraiser coming up, with the children's Sunday School, too! All you have to do is bring in your old sneakers, and we send them in to the company, GotSneakers. They pay us for our donations! The sneakers are then either recycled or reused. It's a win win! I may need a little more help than just bringing sneakers after all...each Sunday during Advent, I'll ask youth to stand in the courtyard with our collection bins. Let me know if you are willing to help!

Spring Plans

Planning events for our Spring calendar is underway! I would love to hear if you have any ideas you want to try, or past events that you loved and would like to see again! While we might not be able to do EVERYTHING you suggest, we will do our best! And keep a running list for future suggestions!

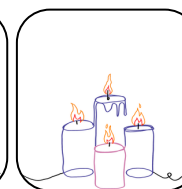
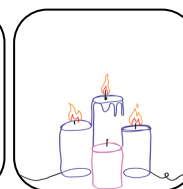
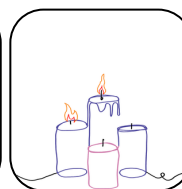
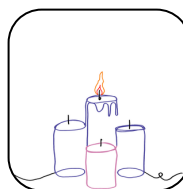
YOUTH Worship

Have you ever wondered why we say that we "practice our faith"? Our faith isn't something that we perfect, any of us. Even your youth leaders and Pastors make mistakes in worship (shhh don't tell them I said that!). The youth department is excited to share that we will pilot a monthly YOUTH Worship at 10AM, on the last Sunday School meeting of every month. This will be a chance for all of us to participate in different aspects of worship and really practice our faith, using the spiritual discipline of worship! There are many ways to help. From music selection, setting up the altar, reading, or sharing God's gifts to you. Interested in signing up to help? Sign up today on the sign up sheet in the Wesley House!

ST. MARK'S YOUTH ALUMNI

Are you a graduate from St. Mark's Youth Program?? Know someone who is!? On Christmas Eve, we will have a meet and greet for St. Mark's Youth Alumni in the Wesley House from 5:30-7:00 PM. Come see the renovated space, and catch up with old friends!! Please pass this along to any and all St. Mark's Youth Alumni!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL



Advent

According to the stores, Christmas is already here! I LOVE Christmas decorations. I love the lights, and the joy, and the happiness. I love to walk through our neighborhood and to see all of the beautiful decorations. But WAIT! It's so important to not rush into it. First, we celebrate Advent! Advent is the start of our liturgical year, and it is a beautiful season of waiting. Waiting for the celebration of Christmas, of waiting for Jesus. Join us Sundays in Advent as we wait, together.

Sierra Service Project



WE GOT OUR SITE! We will be serving on the Navajo Nation for Week 2! Mark your calendars for July 5-13. Our exact travel dates are still TBD, but this should cover all possibilities. If you are

interested in attending, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the official sign up, which will be sent out later this week!

WINTER CAMP 2025

Mingus Mountain, here we come!

This year's winter camp at Mingus Mountain is going to be over Rodeo Break! Feb 27-March 1 we will be up the mountain, HOPEFULLY playing in the snow! This fun weekend is \$100, and scholarships are available. Sign Ups will be posted after Christmas!



Nathan P. 12/01
Norah M. 12/27

Did I miss your birthday this year!? I'm so sorry if I did! Make sure to fill out a permission slip, and include your birthday!

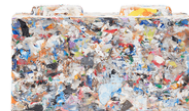


Church & Society Committee



St. Mark's UMC is wrapping up our second year of participating in the City of Tucson Hard-to-Recycle Plastics program — and what a difference our church family has made! This citywide effort helps keep plastics that can't go into regular recycling out of the landfill and out of our environment.

Through a partnership with ByFusion, these tricky plastics are transformed into ByBlocks, a durable, sustainable building material. ByFusion Byblocks While it's not traditional recycling, it's a powerful way to turn waste into something useful and reduce strain on regular recycling operations. Tucson's very own ByFusion upcycling plant is scheduled to open in early 2026—exciting progress for our community!



Byblock

So far, Tucson has shipped three full truckloads of material—over 76,780 pounds—to the current processing facility in California. And St. Mark's has played a HUGE part in this effort. Thanks to your commitment, *our church has collected 1,150 Hefty ReNew bags filled with hard-to-recycle plastics!* Many months, the St. Mark's van is packed to the roof with bright orange bags headed to the city collection bins.



Byblock Planter in Tucson

What counts as "hard-to-recycle"? More than you might think! Candy wrappers, salad bags, bubble wrap, foam peanuts, plastic straws, utensils, and foam cups are all accepted. These materials can take 50 to 500 years to break down — and even then, they never fully disappear. Every bag we fill makes a real impact. Join us each month!

We collect filled Hefty ReNew bags on the second Sunday of every month. You can also pick up new bags at that time: - \$1 for two bags
- \$8 for a box of 20

Stop by the Hard-to-Recycle table on any second Sunday to get bags, ask questions, or learn more about what can go in. Thank you for helping St. Mark's UMC care for God's creation, one orange bag at a time!

For more detailed information about the program click here [City of Tucson Hard to Recycle Orange Bin](https://www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Environmental-Services/Residential-Services/Recycling-Services/Hard-to-Recycle-Plastics-Program-Orange-Bin) (<https://www.tucsonaz.gov/Departments/Environmental-Services/Residential-Services/Recycling-Services/Hard-to-Recycle-Plastics-Program-Orange-Bin>)

Ann Freeman for Church & Society

Thank You!

A huge THANK YOU to the Marksmen and the Youth Group for lighting our campus for Christmas!



Harold learns "finger hearts" from the youth!



Untangling and checking the lights



Lighting up the grapefruit tree, from the inside!

From the Finance Committee

Generosity Campaign

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a Merry Christmas. We are still tabulating the results of the Generosity campaign and welcome your prayers as we work to reconcile expected contributions with anticipated costs in 2026. If you have submitted a pledge, thank you. If you have not yet completed a pledge form, there is still time to do so. Although the campaign has officially ended, we are continuing to accept pledge forms.

Income and expenses through the month of October.

Contributions are behind budget, but in past years they have improved in November and December. Regarding expenses, the budget allows for a large insurance bill in December. However, we have changed insurance carriers, and the bill will be deferred until April. Currently, we anticipate a deficit lower than the budgeted loss of \$40,380.

Description	YTD	Budget	Variance
Contributions	956,105	1,051,050	(94,945)
Other Income	55,222	52,090	3,132
Total Income	1,011,327	1,103,140	(91,813)
Expenses	1,046,511	1,118,961	72,450
Net Income (Loss)	(35,184)	(15,821)	(19,363)



Year-End Notice for Donors

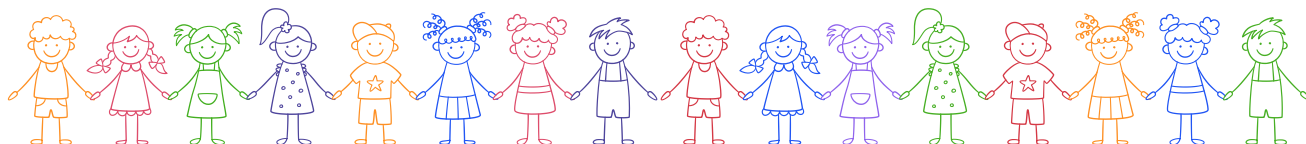
Please wait until you've received your year-end statement of giving to file your income tax return. Some donors may not be able to deduct certain contributions if they file a tax return **before** receiving their church contribution receipt.

For contributions to be deducted in 2025, they must be received at the church **by December 31, 2025**. This means that a check deposited in the church offering in

January of 2026 cannot be deducted in 2025, even if it is backdated to 2025. The only exception is: checks that are **written, mailed and postmarked in 2025** are deductible in 2025 even though not received until 2026.

If you're sending gifts directly from your retirement account, please be sure that they include your name. Investment banks do not share that information with us.

TAX CREDIT OPPORTUNITY



2025 Tax Credit Donation: St. Mark's Early Childhood Center

Your generous tax credit donations allowed many of our Kindergarten students to attend St. Mark's ECC's excellent program at a discounted rate and/or tuition-free. By making a tax credit donation for 2025 you can receive a dollar-for-dollar credit on your Arizona State Income Tax bill and help a child!

Go to: ibescholarships.org on 12/2/25 to take advantage of the Giving Tuesday opportunity.

Thank you for your support of a great education!

12/2/25
Make your
donation online
on Giving Tuesday and
IBE gives **100%** of the funds
donated that day to the school
(no administrative fees).

12/2/25



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

Jim Harris
Ron Hill
Jim Nussman

Charles Moore
Sonya Moore
Becky Strain

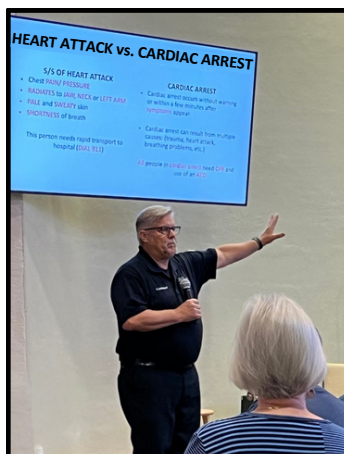
Families of: Carol Neessen
Deb Cushman Goodyke
John Vaughan

Families of: Pat Pennington
Rev. Jeanne Jones
Carolyn Heriza

For those facing surgery, for those traveling over the holidays and for those who struggle during the holidays.

SAFER SANCTUARIES AND CPR TRAINING

We hosted our first Safer Sanctuaries Training, alongside a CPR training on October 26. More than thirty participants — volunteers, ministry leaders, and members from across our congregation gathered to learn practical skills and essential guidelines for creating a safe and nurturing environment within our church. Through thoughtful instruction and hands-on practice, attendees took meaningful steps toward protecting and caring for our church family.



On November 19, our office staff joined over a dozen more church leaders, members, and volunteers for another Safer Sanctuaries training. It is our hope to have the entire St. Mark's community trained in these updated guidelines to ensure the safety of our volunteers, our visitors, and everyone in between.

ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



SAFER
SANCTUARIES
POLICY

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 am

*live streamed at 10 am
on our website and YouTube*

Sanctuary Campus

8000 N Silverbell
Tucson, AZ 85743

Sunday Worship 10 am

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Lynn Bartlow

Sanctuary Campus Pastor:

Tu'ulauena Lolohena

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Deborah Christine

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Sharon Ragland

Greetings in the name of Christ!



Growing up in Hawai'i, some of my favorite memories were from that simple transition between Ordinary Time and Advent. As soon as the last Sunday of Ordinary Time passed, my family and our parish would gather the very next day to decorate the church. I can still see the soft glow of the sanctuary lights, smell the fresh pine, and hear the happy chatter as we got everything ready for the coming of Christ. My favorite part was always helping set up the big Christmas tree and pulling out the old songbooks for choir practice. Those nights, full of laughter, music, and good company, taught me that Advent isn't just about waiting. It's also about being together.

As we enter this season again, I hope we can create those same kinds of moments as a community. From December 7 to 28, Marana Town will be hosting its Nightly Christmas Tree and Musical Light Show, a great chance for families and neighbors to gather and enjoy the season. I'll be walking around on a few of those evenings handing out fliers with our Christmas Eve service times, inviting folks to celebrate the birth of our Savior with us. If you'd like to help with this simple, heartfelt outreach, I'd love to have you join me.

This season, let's keep sharing Christ's light through our voices, our service, and the simple gift of being present with others. May we fill our community with the joy and love that Advent invites us to share.

Blessings,
Pastor T

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



we wish you a
 ★ **merry** ★
 christmas
 And
 a HAPPY
 New Year

From the pastors and
 staff of St. Mark's



Our regular office hours are 9am to 3pm
 Monday - Thursday and we are closed Friday -
 Sunday

Staff may be available by appointment at other
 times; email them using their first name followed
 by @umcstmarks.org

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
12/22	12/23	12/24	12/25
9am - 3pm	9am - 3pm	9am - 12pm	CLOSED
12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1/2026
9am - 3pm	9am - 3pm	9am - 3pm	CLOSED

Need to talk with a Pastor? Call or email the Care Line
 520-783-8837 Pastoral_care@umcstmarks.org

