

Church Conference on November 9 at 1 pm



The Trustees, Finance Committee, and Endowment Committee have brought a proposal to Covenant Council to install solar panels over our parking lot. We believe this is both an act of faith and a sound investment — protecting God's creation, strengthening St. Mark's ministries, and modeling responsible stewardship for generations to come.

This will require a Church Conference vote to approve and move forward. Please come to this special meeting on November 9 at 1pm to discuss and vote. Everyone has a voice at this meeting; church members can vote. Questions? Contact the office and we will connect you with the right person!



We are hiring! Check out our Job Opportunities page on the website. We are currently hiring **three positions** - custodian, chef and kitchen manager, and praise team leader. If you're interested, send your resume to the office and we will be in touch!

Hanging of the Greens: Make This Space Glad! Fifth Sunday Family Worship

November 30 is a Fifth Sunday, and our worship will look a little different! With children fully present, hands-on participation, and music for all ages, we'll celebrate gratitude and prepare our sanctuary for Advent. This intergenerational service invites everyone to take part as we ready our space and ourselves for the season of hope.



Thanksgiving Offering: Changing Lives Near and Far

This Thanksgiving, our special offering will support two powerful ministries that reflect who we are as a church—loving, serving, and giving so all may experience the love of Christ.

- Half of this year's offering will go to **Tucson Refugee Ministry**, which helps refugees find friendship, stability, and belonging as they begin new lives in Southern Arizona.
- The other half will support Tohono O'odham children through camp experiences at the **Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum**, where young people explore the Sonoran Desert, grow in confidence, and connect with their cultural heritage.

Your generosity will open doors, build bridges, and change lives. Use the offering envelopes in the pews or give online.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Before the family arrives or you take off for their homes, take some time to be grounded in the gratitude of the season. We will sing hymns, receive music from our choirs, hear a message from one of our pastors, and receive communion together.

Wednesday, November 26
at 6:30 pm
Magee Campus sanctuary



Join your church family for a potluck dinner on Thanksgiving day at **noon**! Turkey will be provided; sign up to bring your favorite side dish. Let us know if you want to help cook turkeys or decorate in the days before!

Adult Spiritual Growth

Faith is a journey!

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

Or sign up at the Discipleship board on the Magee Campus 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. Seekers end our study of Luke with Jesus' death and resurrection – just in time to see how his earthy life began with the start of Advent. In December we will look at one of the books of the Apocrypha, and start the New Year studying a book from the Old Testament. Please bring a Bible and join us anytime for both laughter and thoughtful discussion. 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 conference room, on the second floor. All are welcome, even if you don't live in the Village! Talk to Marge Sogn for more information.

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

Wednesday Morning Study - October 15-November 19 at 10 am in rooms 17/18 will discuss *Embracing the Uncertain: A Bible Study for Unsteady Times* by Magrey de Vega. Advent study will begin on November 28. Contact Marcia Rostad for more information.

Roadrunner Book Club - 9:30 am Wednesdays at Roadrunner Coffee, Linda Vista and Thornydale. We will be reading *30 Days of Thanksgiving* by Sue Boldt. 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.

Open Minds Book Group - Friday, 11/14, at 9 am on Zoom will discuss *The Dig: a Novel based on True Events*, by John Preston (2007). During the summer of 1939, the widowed owner of a Suffolk farm hires a local man to excavate the mounds on her property. When he confirms her hunch that the mounds cover buried treasure, the project attracts unwanted attention. As the characters seek answers in the burial site, they learn that the past is never left behind.

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 **Marksmen** is 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. Email 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** is 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 7:30am-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.

RUMMAGE TO THE RESCUE(S)!



8 am to noon Sat., November 8 Magee Campus South Parking Lot

Many local animal rescues and shelters will be participating in this annual fundraiser. Every bargain and treasure you purchase will help them provide for the animals in their care!

Wednesday Morning Study 10-11:30, Room 17/18

The *Embracing the Uncertain* study by Magrey deVega continues each Wednesday through November 19. Topics which will be discussed are the uncertainty of mortality, of surrender, and of obedience. Drop-in attendance at any or all these topics is welcomed, and you may contact the study leader for the dates of each discussion.

Our Advent study begins November 28. We will discuss a variety of topics gleaned from favorite Advent-related studies of the past. No study books will be required. Study registration may be made directly with the Study Leader Marcia Rostad



Advent Midweek Wednesdays in December

Come and join us for an Advent Midweek!

On **December 3, 10, and 17** the schedule will look like this:

5 pm Service of prayer and communion in the Sanctuary
5:30 pm Dinner in the Fellowship Hall
6:15 pm – You are invited to:

Advent Study in the Library Or...
Continue Visiting in the Fellowship Hall Or...
Choir Practice!

The Fellowship Hall will have a **Kids Corner** set up with tables and art activities for kids.

Questions? Contact Edwin Andrade.
edwin@umcstmarks.org

THE ROOTIN'-EST, TOOTIN'-EST FUNDRAISER THIS SIDE OF THE RILLITO!



You are invited to join with your Church Family, to not only help send our Youth to Mission experiences, but also to help with other pieces of Youth Ministry here at St. Mark's.

We are hosting a delicious *Chili Cook-Off* in the Fellowship Hall on **November 15** from 5-8 PM. Flights of Chili will be \$15 for 6 cups of your choice of chili. Refills are only \$5! When you pick your favorite- *stuff that ballot box!* \$1=1 vote. Students will also be hosting carnival games in the courtyard! It promises to be a really fun evening! *Bring a friend!*

If you would like to enter your Chili, please sign up at <https://umcstmarks.breezechms.com/form/ChiliCookoff25>

Markaritas



Mark-a-ritas Outing to the MISSION GARDEN of the O'odham

Join us on **Saturday, November 8** for a special trip to the Mission Gardens of the O'odham! We'll enjoy talks, garden tours, an arts festival, and a cultural craft sale.

Festivities run from 8 am–4 pm; we plan to arrive around 9 am and stay as long as we like. If you'd like to carpool, meet in St. Mark's south parking lot by 8:35 am.

RSVPs aren't required—but if you let us know you're coming, we'll be sure to wait for you!

Mark-a-ritas Christmas Tea & Potluck

Ladies, you are invited the Mark-a-ritas annual holiday celebration on **Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6 pm** in the Fellowship Hall! Bring a favorite dish to share and enjoy a cozy evening of tea, treats, and friendship.

This year, we're also collecting small stuffed animals for children affected by fires or natural disasters—an effort led by Red Cross volunteer Brenda Hunter.

More details coming soon—mark your calendar and join the holiday cheer!





St. Mark's has amazing altars in worship at our Magee Campus. We want to expand the number of people who are helping to create these altars! The best part: you don't have to do it yourself; you're part of a team. Talk with one of the pastors if you want to know more.

On **November 29**, our fearless Worship Committee invites you to help prepare for Christmas! We will put up the Christmas trees, unpack ornaments, and get everything ready for the next days' service (see the front page). Interested? Let us know and we will share details!

We are grateful for Darcy Halvorson, who has led the Worship Committee for nearly four years. She leaves big shoes to fill, as we look for someone to coordinate the visual & experiential parts of worship.

Send her a note of thanks!



SAFER SANCTUARIES POLICY

New Safer Sanctuaries Policy Adopted

We're pleased to share that at our Church Conference on October 22 we adopted a new Safer Sanctuaries policy, replacing our policy we adopted in 2006. This policy is designed to ensure everyone at St. Mark's United Methodist Church—children, youth, vulnerable adults, volunteers, and staff—is welcomed and protected in a safe, respectful space. We want to train everyone in this policy so that we can live our mission of gathering, connecting, and serving together in love and trust.

This policy will be posted on our website, on the "Resources" page. Or, pick up one at the church office.

Training for Everyone!

Wednesday, November 19 at 11:30 am

Come for lunch and conversation about our policy!



November 30 @ 3 pm



The Manhattan Dolls is a local swing-style female vocal trio with the sound of the Andrews Sisters that will delight everyone in the audience. This Christmas-themed concert will take us through all our favorite Christmas tunes with their gorgeous harmonies.

November 9 @ 3 pm

BLUE PRAIRIE DOGS

Founded in 1992 by Dan Oved, Blue Prairie Dogs is described as "spicy, southwestern folk music" and is family-friendly, danceable, and expertly performed.



The choirs are always seeking new members – feel free to join us at rehearsal on any Wednesday evening. Contact Jane at jane@umcstmarks.org for information about our choirs.



United
Women
in Faith

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

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.

United Women in Faith meets in Room 17/18 at the Magee Campus

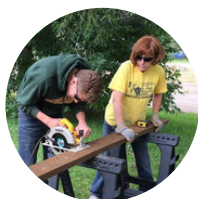
Join the Craft Circle at 9 am on **November 4th and 25th**.

We will look at how we did at the Masterpiece Festival and prepare for the December Craft Sale.



Join us on Tuesday, **November 11**. We meet at 9:30 am for refreshments and fellowship with a meeting starting at 10 am. Our program will be the *World Thank Offering*

Join the ladies on Tuesday, **November 18** at 9 am. We will be helping Sister Jose Women's Center



Kim Ogle Scholarship for Sierra Service Project

United Women in Faith will offer three scholarships for youth attending Sierra Service Project each year in honor of Kim Ogle and her work with the youth of St. Mark's. Those who are interested should contact Rachel Mosher to get an application.



Did You Know...

The Hanging of the Greens: the symbolism of evergreens points to the unending life of the age to come when Christ returns, the dead are raised, and the righteous enter life in the new creation.

Chrismons, meaning "Christ monograms," traditionally are white and gold designs made from Christian symbols that signify Christ. Often displayed on an evergreen tree during the Christmas season, they remind us of Christ's identity, his story, and of the Holy Trinity.

Someone has died. Someone is deployed. Someone is missing. Someone is hungry. Someone needs a job. Someone is desperate. Churches understand this and plan services that speak to sad hearts. These services go by different names: Blue Christmas, Longest Night or Time of Remembrance.

Personal invitations from church members are the most powerful tool for attracting new people. Who will you invite to church?

Holiday Dates to Know

We know it's only November, but the holidays are fast approaching! Mark your calendars for these events that will be perfect to invite a friend to!

November 26 Thanksgiving Eve worship at 6:30 pm

November 27 Thanksgiving Day Potluck Dinner at noon

November 30 Hanging of the Greens at Fifth Sunday worship

December 14 Cantata with St. Mark's Choirs

December 21 Longest Night Service at 3 pm

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)





Missions Ministry

St. Mark's Celebrates 40 Years of Partnership with Interfaith Community Services

As a founding faith partner of Interfaith Community Services, St. Mark's was honored to celebrate 40 years of shared ministry and service with a \$6,000 donation to ICS—representing \$150 for each year we've walked this journey together.

This gift is more than a check; it's a symbol of our deep commitment to the work ICS does every day to uplift and support our neighbors in need. For four decades, we've stood together in faith and compassion, united by a calling to serve our community with dignity, hope, and love.

We are proud to continue this journey with ICS and look forward to many more years of making a difference—together.



Plates featuring churches who helped establish ICS



My time as a volunteer at Interfaith Community Services (ICS), has been a fulfilling experience. It gives me a sense of purpose, builds camaraderie with a group of like minded individuals, and a new perspective on life.

I am greeted every day by people who are genuinely glad to see me; both coworkers and the families we serve. I conclude every shift with a sense of accomplishment and joy that in some way, I have made a positive impact on someone's life.

Volunteers learn valuable life skills such as how to fit groceries for 4 families into a four door sedan with 5 passengers and a trunk full of assorted treasures. I never thought one of my greatest joys would be to

open a spacious trunk free of junk.

Another gift that I receive is to experience and appreciate the sheer will and determination of people to overcome life's challenges. Whether weathering mental, physical, or financial hardship, the resilience displayed by many of our clients gives new perspectives when I find myself challenged by life's turmoil.

Over the past 18 months, I spent 3 mornings a week either working in the food bank or delivering Mobile Meals to households. I cannot recall a single day where I have not felt blessed at the end of my shift and that I have received more than I have given.

Regards, Ron White

Emerge: 50 Years of Service to Survivors

For a half a century, Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse has stood as an example of hope, resilience, and transformation for survivors of domestic violence in our community. Emerge also paves the way for long term healing and liberation.

In January 2025, Emerge announced the reopening of twenty - five studio-style casitas that offer emergency shelter and ongoing support for survivors to recover and rebuild their lives. These confidential shelters offer accommodation for individuals leaving situations of domestic violence. Participants are given food, clothing, and essential supplies; access to emotional support and help with safety planning; information about domestic abuse; opportunities to participate in support groups; and referrals to other agencies and resources.

St Mark's Methodist Church supports Emerge in ensuring survivors' safety and aiding their recovery and empowerment.



Chinle - Planting Hope



In late October, we sent a team of volunteers to Chinle Planting Hope on the Navajo Nation in Chinle, Arizona. We stuffed the van with your donations for their food bank! Thank you! Details of their trip will be shared in the December Messenger.



Youth Ministry

The 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!

DENIM

and Diamonds

prep night

November 2

St. Mark's

Last year was SO FUN! This year's Denim and Diamonds has a fun new twist! We still have LOTS of prep work to get done, and it's always more fun and easier with everyone there to help.

Remember- this is our BIG fundraiser for Youth Ministries and Missions, so we all benefit.

St. Mark's

Join other youth from the South District for our first ever Real World Challenge!

Meet at the Wesley House 2:15-5:30. We will travel together to Ft. Lowell Park for some action packed fun!

Wear closed-toed shoes, and be ready to run, and bring a friend!

Think YOU are up for a CHALLENGE of epic proportions!?

REAL WORLD

Challenge

South District Event

NOVEMBER 9 2:15-5:30

DENIM

and Diamonds

CHILI COOK-OFF

BENEFITTING YOUTH MINISTRIES AND MISSIONS

November 15

St. Mark's

This is our BIG fundraiser for the year for Youth Missions and Ministries. Sign up today to help! (It's SO MUCH FUN!)

St. Mark's

Youth Group will not meet on November 16- you've earned the day off, with all of that HARD WORK on Saturday night!

November 16

DENIM

and Diamonds

RECOVERY- NO YOUTH

St. Mark's

November 23

There is something magical about Christmas lights, isn't there? Help make the magic happen! Join with the Marksmen to hang Christmas lights around the Magee Campus and help bring that magic to life!

YOUTH

SABBATH

REST. REFLECT. CONNECT.

St. Mark's

Resting is such an important way to connect with God. Thanksgiving weekend is a time to practice this sacred practice of resting. I am thankful for each of you, and thankful for rest!

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!



Denim and Diamonds



This year's Denim and Diamonds will be so fun! Get ready to taste some yummy chili and vote for your favorite ones using some cold hard cash. Or tickets you buy with a credit card. We also need help from YOU to run this amazing event.

If you haven't signed up for a shift yet, contact Rachel for the sign up link. Hurry, before the good spots are gone!!

We will all work together to set up the final details for this amazing night on November 2 from 4-6 in the Wesley House. This year will require no denim cutting! You're welcome!

Sierra Service Project

Rachel just got back from the SSP 50th celebration and couldn't be more excited for this summer! We have requested our dates, and are anxiously awaiting hearing when we head to SSP! I signed up for 20 spots, and we already have 15 interest forms! Don't wait! if you want to join us, fill this out today! Don't forget- we have TWO fundraisers in November that will help pay for this awesome experience. These fundraisers keep the cost for families as low as possible. If you are planning to attend SSP, I really need your help! Questions? Contact Rachel today.



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



Addy R	11/04
Nathanial S	11/07
Keves V	11/15
Abby J	11/16
Rose S	11/24

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL



Fall Sunday School

Join us in November as we discuss John Wesley's Three Simple Rules: Do Good, Do No Harm, and Stay in Love With God. This will be a fun series that helps us get to the root of our Methodism, and practice the same grace that John Wesley did way back in the days of the Holy Club!

Sunday School meets weekly at 10AM in the Wesley House. See you there! Seriously. I'll be looking for you.

Family Worship



There ain't no worship like a Family Worship and your Family in Worship is near!

That's the hit new single from Rachel's upcoming album "5th Sunday"! Ok...I don't think my music career will take me very far, will it?

But in all seriousness, on November 30, it's another FIFTH Sunday! 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! There are lots of ways for you to help with this special Advent edition Family Worship!



Church & Society Committee

Dedicated to living faith, seeking justice, pursuing peace, implementing social principles, and addressing social issues.



1 Sequoyah couldn't read or write in any language. But he single-handedly invented the Cherokee writing system in 1821. By the 1830s, 90% percent of Cherokee could read and write, a higher percentage than white settlers.

2 Founded around 1142, the Iroquois Confederacy united the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca — later joined by the Tuscarora in 1722 as the "Six Nations."

Its *Great Law of Peace* established a model of representative democracy that influenced America's Founding Fathers. In 1987, the U.S. Senate officially recognized the Confederacy's impact on the U.S. Constitution.



3 Native Americans invented hammocks, canoes, kayaks, snow shoes, bunk beds, baby bottles, suspension bridges, syringes made from animal parts, rubber, pain relievers from willow bark, mouthwash,



oral contraceptives, food and agriculture such as corn, beans, squash - and popcorn, dating back 6,700 years in Peru!

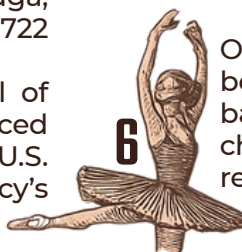
4 Before European contact, over 300 languages were spoken across America. Cities like *Cahokia* had 15,000 - 20,000 residents – larger than most European cities at the time.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH FASCINATING FACTS

5 Native Americans weren't granted U.S. citizenship until 1924, yet thousands served in both World Wars.

- WWI: 12,000 men (30% of Native male population) enlisted.
- WWII: 45,000 enlisted.

Tribes such as the Navajo, Comanche, Meskwaki, Chippewa, Oneida, Hopi, and Choctaw served as Code Talkers — using their languages to send unbreakable messages.



Osage Nation member, Maria Tallchief became the first major American prima ballerina in the 1940s. Partnering with choreographer George Balanchine, she revolutionized American ballet.

6 *The Cherokee Phoenix* is the first newspaper published in a Native American language. The first issue was published in English and Cherokee on February 21, 1828. The paper continued until 1834, was revived in the 20th century, and today it publishes both print and internet versions.

7 Despite centuries of challenges, **574 FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES** continue to thrive — preserving ancient cultures while building innovative futures.

*THIS ISN'T ANCIENT HISTORY.
THIS IS AMERICAN RESILIENCE.*

Did You Get An Annual Report?

We emailed this 40-page document out in October, but it's available in print form as well. Check the Narthex on Sunday or come by the church office during the week.

A



B



C



D



E



All of these images were included in the annual report. Can you name every event or activity?

From the Finance Committee



Happy November! This is a time to reflect on all our blessings and give thanks to God for all we have been given. We are grateful for the generosity of our congregation and the many ways you support the church's mission with your time, talents and treasure.

November is also the month of our generosity campaign. This year's brochure was scheduled to mail on October 27, some of you may have already received it. If you have not there are more available; you can pick them up at church on Sunday morning or at the Magee church office during the week. The brochure has messages from all our clergy as well as various departments and church committees. There are also pictures highlighting many of our church activities and community services. We celebrate all we have achieved in the past year and ask you to please consider how you would like to serve next year.



The Finance Committee uses the pledges made in November to provide the basis for our budget in 2026. We ask you to help us plan better for next year by making an estimate of your giving with a pledge. Last year we had 213 pledges we have set a goal to receive 235 pledges this year. We understand not everyone is comfortable making a pledge, but appreciate your help if you can do so. Also know that your pledge can be updated anytime through the year if you want to make a change

There are pledge cards inserted in the brochure, or you can pick one up at church. They can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mailed to the Magee campus. If you prefer, pledges can be completed on-line through the Web Site.



Thank you again for your generous support. We appreciate every gift whether pledged or given as you are led throughout the year. We understand each member of the congregation contributes in multiple ways to fulfill our missions to gather connect and serve so all may experience the love of Christ.



Worship in November: Rooted in Gratitude, Growing in Love

As our *Rooted in Faith, Grounded in Love* series continues, November invites us to celebrate what God is growing in us—a spirit of gratitude and generosity. We'll give thanks for the saints who came before us, explore how lives rooted in Christ overflow with thanksgiving and love in action, and conclude with Commitment Sunday, offering our gifts to God with thankful hearts. Each week offers a chance to be nourished in worship, grounded in Scripture, and inspired to live with gratitude, love, and joy. *Join us this November at St. Mark's!*

Farewell to Erin Daddona



We are preparing to say thank you and farewell to Erin Daddona, who has faithfully led worship at the Sanctuary campus for more than a decade. Erin first served as the music leader and choir director for a small choir in the two traditional services at Sanctuary UMC and has since guided the congregation through many seasons of music and ministry.

Her musical gifts and heartfelt leadership have most recently helped shape our modern worship experience, creating space for people to encounter God through song and community. We are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and heart Erin has shared with St. Mark's.

Erin has returned to school, working toward a master's degree in School Counseling. In addition to her studies, she has stepped into a new role as a Guidance Counselor at a local elementary school—all while continuing her full-time roles as daughter, wife, mom, and carpool driver for her kids' many activities! To maintain balance in this busy season, Erin has decided to step away from her church position. Please join us in celebrating her ministry and wishing her well in this next chapter.



A search for our next Praise Team Leader is underway. The job description can be found on our website at www.umcstmarks.org/job-opportunities/.



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

Deb Cushman Goodyke
Mike Goodyke
April Duboce

Frances and Lil Hydock
Margaret Suchland

Pat Pennington
Jeanne Jones

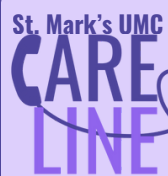
Upcoming memorial:
Martha Jeanne DuBoce,
mother of April Duboce
November 13, 1 pm

What's Up With Congregational Care?

On Tuesday, October 21st twelve people came to our first session of Lay Visitation Team Training. Our focus was on "Growing in Listening and Responding Skills". Three people were on the adult mission trip to Chinle and have been invited to a make-up session on October 28, along with some others who couldn't come on October 21. Our next training session is on November 4th when we'll learn about "Understanding the Dimensions of Grief and Loss". We're off to a great start with our Lay Visitation Team!

People continue to call and email the Care Line. If you or someone you know needs to talk to a pastor, call the Care Line at 520-783-8837 or email pastoral_care@umcstmarks.org.

Also, if you know someone who is homebound or in a care facility and may not already be on our church's Homebound List, please contact me at sharon@umcstmarks.org.



Need to talk with a pastor?

Call and leave a message:
520-783-8837

Or email:
pastoral_care@umcstmarks.org

Through congregational care we connect people to God and one another.

Rev. Sharon Ragland, Associate Minister of Congregational Care



(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

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Lynn Bartlow

Sanctuary Campus Pastor:

Tu'ulauena Loloheua

Discipleship Pastor:

Rev. Deborah Christine

Congregational Care Pastor

Rev. Sharon Ragland



In Las Vegas for the Viva La Church event

At the installation for our new District Superintendent



Pastor T's

We have been truly blessed on the Sanctuary Campus with new faces in service and growing connections within our community. **Every Thursday**, I will be hosting **Coffee Time with Pastor T** at the Starbucks in the Twin Peaks and Silver Bell Shopping Center (by Safeway). I'll be there from 10 am to 1 pm. Please feel free to stop by if you'd like to talk, pray, or simply share in fellowship. At St. Mark's UMC, we gather, connect, and serve—so all may experience the love of Christ. Let's continue to live out that mission together.

Blessings, Pastor T



Sanctuary Campus Potluck



Join us on the third Sunday of each month for worship and stay for our potluck. Bring a dish to share and enjoy good food and great conversation!

**Peanut and nut free dishes are preferred!*

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Practicing Gratitude in a Difficult World

As I write this, the world feels heavy. Jamaica braces for a Category 5 hurricane. Thousands of federal workers report for duty without pay. One in eight Americans worries about losing SNAP benefits—nearly 42 million people. And that doesn't even include the headlines from Argentina, Venezuela, Gaza, and Israel. Everywhere we turn, there are reminders of hardship and uncertainty. 

And yet, as we turn the page to November, the season of Thanksgiving arrives. We're told to give thanks, to count our blessings, to practice gratitude. But how do we do that when the pain of the world presses in? Gratitude doesn't come naturally in difficult times—it has to be chosen and practiced.

Still, Scripture calls us to it. We are to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18), to bless God at all times (Psalm 34:1). James even urges us to "consider it pure joy" when we face trials, because perseverance shapes us into people of stronger faith (James 1:2-4). These are easy verses to quote, but hard truths to live.

That's why I believe gratitude is not about ignoring pain but about looking for God's presence in the midst of it. We can remember how God has been faithful before and trust that God will be faithful again. When we do, we find small signs of grace even in hard days—moments of kindness, beauty, and hope.

Our world needs gratitude rooted in the hope of Jesus Christ, and we can offer that. So how will you practice gratitude this month? See what happens when you look for God, even in the tough times.

See you soon,

Pastor Lynn

