



- ✚ 6 am to 9 am Drop-in Ashes
Magee campus sanctuary
- ✚ 11:30 am to 1 pm Drop-in Ashes
Magee campus Memorial Garden
- ✚ 3-6 pm Drop-in Ashes
Starbucks on
Silverbell and Twin Peaks
- ✚ 6:30 pm Service of Ashes and
Communion with choir
Magee campus sanctuary

LENTEN MIDWEEK

GATHER CONNECT SERVE

Beginning February 25, join us for Midweek; a time of community and connection in the middle of the week. A shared meal will be provided and childcare will be available, making it easy for the whole family to participate. All are welcome to join and encouraged to bring a friend or two or five.

Worship will be a bit different. The Prayer Communion service will be a Taizé style service. Taizé refers to both an ecumenical monastic community in France and a style of meditative, participatory prayer named after it, characterized by simple, repetitive chants, scripture readings, icons, and periods of silence, fostering Christian unity and a deep sense of God's presence. The chants become a form of "musical centering prayer" or "meditative singing" for reflection and peace.

You are invited to bring your joys and concerns and place them on our "Prayer Wall." This wall will remain throughout the season of Lent. Additionally, the sanctuary will be open at 4:45 for those that might like some quiet prayer time before the service.

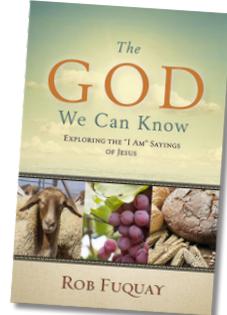
Lenten Worship

Our Epiphany journey has guided us from manger to mountain, inviting us to listen closely to Jesus' words in the Beatitudes and learn what life in God's kingdom looks like. In Lent, we take the next step—not just hearing Jesus' teaching, but coming to know more deeply who he is.

This Lent, we will explore Jesus' "I Am" statements through the study *The God We Can Know* by Rob Fuquay. These words—*I am the bread of life, the light of the world, the good shepherd*—are not abstract theology. They are promises spoken into real human need.

If Epiphany asked us to pay attention to the way of Jesus, Lent invites us to trust the One who walks that way with us. Join us as we discover a God who is not distant or hidden, but present, faithful, and knowable—especially in the wilderness places of our lives.

Join us this Lent.



In our study, we'll journey together through Jesus' powerful "I Am" statements, exploring what they reveal about His identity, presence, and invitation to deeper faith. This study will be part of our Midweek gathering and is open to all seeking reflection, renewal, and spiritual growth during the Lenten season.

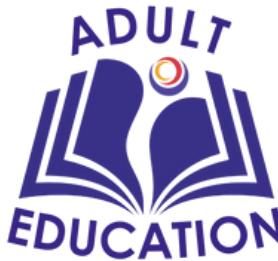
Interested in some time to eat and relax? The Fellowship Hall will remain open for you to eat relax and be in fellowship with others. Kid activities will also be available in the fellowship hall.

Midweek Schedule

- 4:45pm – Sanctuary open for prayer and contemplation
- 5:00pm– Prayer & Communion Service in the Sanctuary
- 5:30pm – Dinner in Fellowship Hall
- 6:15pm – Lenten Study in the Library
Financial Peace University – Rms. 17&18
- Choir
- Continued fellowship time

See more Lenten studies on page 3!

We have a new logo and name! We are retiring the ASG (Adult Spiritual Growth) name and logo. The ASG committee served St. Marks for many years creating and leading wonderful studies and events. We plan to continue that as the **Adult Education Team**.



Starting in February we will hold a zoom meeting for all those who are currently leading studies and programs. This will give us an opportunity to talk with each other about what we are leading and think of future studies or events. Meeting together will also help me have a better understanding of how I can support each leader. If you are interested in being a part of this discussion, please let me know. Our first zoom meeting will be **Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6:30 pm**.

Pastor Deborah

Adult Sunday School - 9:30 am *Sundays in Rooms 17/18 and via Zoom*. Please register online or contact a study leader to obtain Zoom information. Led by Rick Farnsworth.

Seekers Sunday Bible Study - 11 am *Sundays in Rooms 17/18*. Seekers continue their study of Joshua. While the story of the walls of Jericho falling down as part of a successful campaign by God and the Israelites is a familiar one, the reality is that much of the book is about bloody conquest of land. These stories are hard ones for us, but the Bible includes stories that are representative of human actions throughout history. Our challenge is to see how God IS working in history, and what our roles should be. Please feel free to join our often frustrating discussions.

Monday Mornings at Mountain View Retirement Village - 10:30 am in the 2nd floor conference room. All are welcome, even if you don't live in the Village! [Read more on page 3!](#)

ALL REGISTRATION IS ONLINE AT
umcstmarks.org/classes/adult_spiritual_growth-opportunities

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

Roadrunner Book Club - 9:30 am *Wednesdays at Roadrunner Coffee, Linda Vista and Thornydale*. Please contact Carol Witherspoon.

Wednesday Morning Study - 10 am *Wednesdays in Rooms 17/18 and via Zoom*. We will begin a simulation of court hearings concerning the characters who played a role in the crucifixion of Jesus from 10-11:30. Join the class for any or all the six sessions. [Read more about it on page 3!](#)

Open Minds Book Group - Friday, 2/27, at 9 am on *Zoom* will discuss *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, by Steven Galloway (2008). In a city ravaged by war, a defiant musician plays his cello at the site of a mortar attack for 22 days, in memory of his fallen neighbors. Galloway's story follows the lives of three strangers, exploring how war can change one's definition of humanity, how music strengthens our endurance, and how our daily rituals can be a form of resistance. Led by Celeste Pardee and Ann Reaban.

Service & Fellowship

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.

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.

Play Farkle! 1st Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 1 pm. All are welcome! We will teach you!

Pub Theology - 6 pm the last Monday of the month at Barro's Pizza on AZ Pavilions Dr. Drink and think (and eat) while discussing life and faith. Contact info@umcstmarks.org

Pickleball meets 8 am - 10 am Wednesdays & Saturdays at the court in the Magee campus north parking lot.

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.

The **Veterans 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.

Mark-a-Ritas - Women who believe it's important to have girlfriends at church, too! The Mark-a-Ritas meet monthly and take turns planning the activities. Contact markaritas.tucson@gmail.com
[See page 3 for our next activity!](#)

Primavera Meals - *Various*. Teams of 5-7 people making a meal and serving it at the Primavera men's shelter once a month. [Learn more on page 6!](#)

Mark-a-ritas

Tour the Fox Theater!

Mark-a-ritas are taking a trip to tour The Fox Theater in downtown Tucson, on **Tuesday, Feb. 3**. If you are interested in attending, please be in the south parking lot of St. Mark's Magee campus at 11:15 am to carpool. That should provide us ample time to drive to the theater and find parking for the noon tour. Please R.S.V.P. to: markaritas.tucson@gmail.com

Let us know you are planning on joining us so that we don't leave without you!



Lenten Studies

Lenten Study at Mountain View

Beginning on Monday, February 16th, a Lenten study will be held at Mountain View Retirement Village at 10:30 am. The weekly lessons will make reference to a book titled: *The God We Can Know* by Rob Fuquay. The book is about knowing God and knowing God through Jesus. Purchasing a book is not required. Lessons and Bibles are provided each week. Contact Marge Sogn for additional information.

Wednesday Morning Lenten Study:

“For the Defense.....”

Beginning February 18, the Wednesday Morning Study will begin a simulation of court hearings concerning the characters who played a role in the crucifixion of Jesus. Who will be brought to trial? Will it be Judas, Pontius Pilate, Peter, the Roman soldiers or others who participated in the death of Jesus? On what evidence will the prosecution use to determine their guilt? Who will be assigned “for the defense” to protect and uphold the accused? Will the jury be impartial? Which judge will preside over each case and what will be the consequence if a defendant is found guilty?

Each week a new defendant will take the stand and the legal proceedings begin. You are invited to join this 6-week study and participate in each hearing. *This class meets Wednesday mornings, in rooms 17/18, from 10-11:30 and by Zoom.* No study book is required. Please contact Marcia Rostad if you will be attending via Zoom and need connection information.

Coffee* with Pastor Lynn

*Coffee/Tea & Cats Not Provided

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



about something... whatever you want! Join her **February 12, 2-3 pm** at the Barnes and Noble Book - store at the former Foothills Mall. Grab a drink or just come chat!



CRAZY CARDS GAME NIGHT!

Crazy Cards is returning on **Friday, March 6th at 6:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall on the Magee Campus.

Sign up on February 22 and March 1 at both campuses. Make sure to bring \$5 for each person when you sign up! And bring a dessert to share on March 6th!

Christian Meditation

Meditation is an important part of my daily faith practice. Beginning each day in silence helps ground me in God's presence and shapes how I listen, respond, and live.

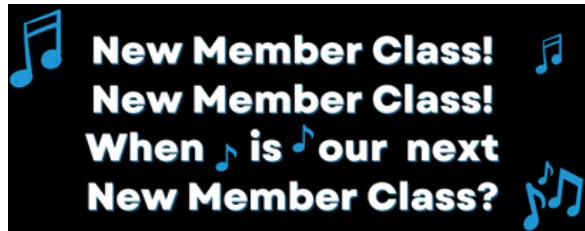
Christian meditation is a spiritual discipline focused on drawing near to God, listening for God's voice, and being transformed by the Holy Spirit. Rooted in Scripture and the Christian tradition, it invites us to slow down, become still, and open ourselves to God's loving presence. Practices such as lectio divina and Centering Prayer help redirect our attention toward God's truth, peace, and guidance.

Centering Prayer, a modern contemplative practice, emphasizes resting in God through silence and a sacred word that expresses our intention to be open to God's presence and action within us.

Christian meditation is not an escape from life, but a way of entering life more fully—anchored in God's love and guided by the Spirit.

If you're interested in learning more or participating in a study on Christian meditation, please let me know.

*Blessings,
Pastor Deb*



March 7 - 9 to noon - Room 17/18

April 19 - 1 to 4 pm - Room 17/18

Contact Tricia@umcstmarks.org



Join Us for Our Palm Sunday Cantata-Drama!



SINGERS:

All singers are warmly invited to join the Festival Choir and sing with us for our Palm Sunday Cantata-Drama. If you would like to be part of the combined choir, please plan to attend our kickoff rehearsal:

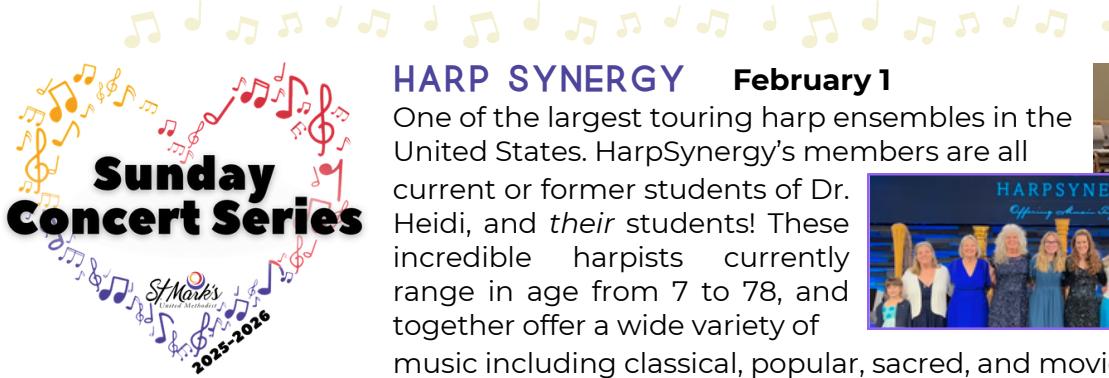
- Saturday, February 7 at 10 am in the Magee campus sanctuary

Weekly rehearsals will begin:

- Wednesday, February 11
- 7 – 7:40 pm in the Magee campus sanctuary

Rehearsals will continue every Wednesday evening (except Ash Wednesday, Feb 18)

For more information or to get involved, please contact Jane at jane@umcstmarks.org.



HARP SYNERGY February 1

One of the largest touring harp ensembles in the United States. HarpSynergy's members are all current or former students of Dr. Heidi, and *their* students! These incredible harpists currently range in age from 7 to 78, and together offer a wide variety of music including classical, popular, sacred, and movie favorites.



February 8 – The Tributaries

Swing to the sounds of the 1960s with this groovy tribute band, known for sold-out performances at the Gaslight Theatre.



February 27 – Blue Prairie Dogs

A Tucson favorite! Be energized by their spicy country rock and old-time western music.

March 1 – University of Arizona Symphonic Choir & Desert Voices

Kittens and puppies and birds, oh my!

An homage to our furred, finned, and feathered friends. Desert Voices (Dr. James Higgs, conductor) and the U of A Symphonic Choir (Dr. Elizabeth Schauer, conductor) present a fun and artful program inspired by animals. Special guests from Pima Animal Care Center will also appear.





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 will meet Tuesday, Feb. 10, in Rooms 17/18. Refreshments and fellowship begin at 9:30 am and the meeting follows at 10. A music program is on the schedule.



CAYA - Come As You Are - meets at 9:30 am Saturday, Feb. 21 & Feb. 28 in Rooms 17/18. This is a group for fellowship and book study. It's not necessary to have read the book. Email deborahnelson2351@yahoo.com for more information on this new group open to all women.

Grace Circle will meet at 9 am Tuesday, Feb. 17, in Rooms 17/18. The group will visit members who are shut-ins.

Craft Circle will meet at 9 am Tuesday, Feb. 24, in Rooms 17/18. People who aren't crafty are welcome as there are always people who need help.

YOU are invited to a Volunteer Appreciation event!

Join us on Fat Tuesday, **February 17** as we celebrate our amazing volunteers with a Mardi Gras-themed appreciation drop-in party at the Magee Campus from 4:30-6:00 pm. Enjoy a festive pancake, joyful fellowship, and a little New Orleans flair as we say thank you for the time, love, and service you share with our church.

And if you're wondering whether this invitation includes you—it does. If you have ever helped, served, led, supported, cared, or quietly made ministry possible in any way, this celebration is for you. At St. Mark's, ministry happens because people show up with willing hearts, and we are deeply grateful.

Come ready to celebrate all that God is doing through you and through this community. Let the good times roll!

Tuesday, February 17 from 4:30 - 6pm

THANK YOU!

In January we told you about the generous donation of the beautiful new furniture in the library. Through January, a team of library volunteers have been meeting on Wednesday mornings to take every book off the shelf, dust, and then organize the books in content areas. Soon we will put all the books back on the shelves!

THANK YOU!

In addition to our team, a huge thank you to Rebecca Raynor who is cataloging and arranging all our Adult Education books in the cabinets at the back of the library. Ginny Smith is hard at work on all the children's books, sorting, and arranging them into content areas. If you would like to help with the library project, please contact deborah@umcstmarks.org.

THANK YOU!





Missions Ministry

Help Feed Lotsa People With Lotsa Pasta

February 1st-28th



A month-long food drive focused on noodles!



Please bring packs of pasta and cans/jars of pasta sauce, and other non-perishable food on Sunday mornings, or to St. Mark's north parking lot (Magee) on Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 am. Every donation, however much, is invaluable to families in need.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT:

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE!



Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is **Sunday, March 1**. The Red Cross asks that we help replenish the blood supply! Registration is open. Booking now can guarantee a better spot. We accept all whole blood types and Power Red donations. On request, I will text eligibility requirements and reminders to eat protein and drink water! Sign up here!

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=stmarks>
– Your St. Mark's Blood Program Leader.



ST. MARK'S MEAL TEAMS NEEDED!

LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY THAT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE?
IT'S EASY AND FUN! Contact our Primavera meal coordinator, Kathy Howard at 660-441-1885 kjhoward3640@gmail.com

St. Mark's has been serving a monthly meal at the Primavera men's shelter for over 25 years. Currently, we prepare meals for 50 folks. Teams are composed of 5-7 people willing to spend part of a day putting the meal together, then delivering and serving it. Teams are varied and include: a group of friends; a family (or two); and groups in the church (United Women in Faith, Roadrunner Book Club, Chancel Choir, etc.). We also welcome anyone just wanting to get involved, with or without a team – we'll get you plugged in.

The meals usually includes a main dish, with a salad and/or vegetable, and dessert. And yes, we have suggested recipes!

MARKET ON THE MOVE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 8-10 AM

For a donation of \$10 you can get up to 60 pounds (it varies each month, sometimes more, sometimes less!) of fresh produce and food that you can share with family, friends, neighbors, and people in need.

Drive up and make your \$10 donation per order (cash only). Then pop your trunk, pull forward and we'll load your vehicle! Questions or to volunteer text Lenna Burnham or call the church office.

"Only \$10 for up to 60 pounds of food?!"



Save the Date! St. Mark's will sponsor the "Rise Against Hunger" food packaging event on **March 15**. Volunteers will be needed – look for the link to sign up later in February!



HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Use the kitchen at the church to prepare the entire meal

OR

Fix part of the meal at home in crockpots and come together at the church to put the meal together

OR

Prepare everything at home.

LOTS OF WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH THE SAME GOAL!

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!



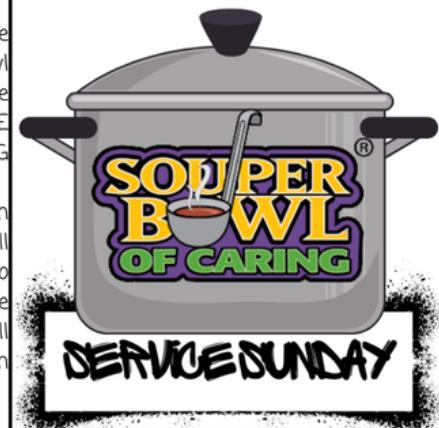
February 1
2-4

Back by popular demand—the Wesley Cup! This year at St. Mark's!! This popular competition in the South District is a fun competition of SUPER proportions!

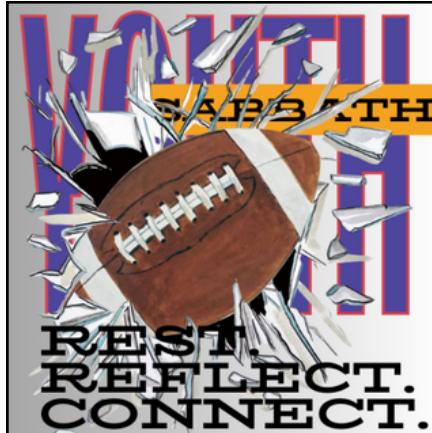
Come compete in some trivia games, Oddball, and more! Don't forget to wear your 2025-2026 St. Mark's Youth shirt!



11.2 million lbs of potato chips are eaten each year on Super Bowl Sunday. But what about people who are hungry on this HUGE food holiday?? Before the BIG GAME, let's do so BIG SERVICE! After each worship service on the Magee campus, youth will hold soup pots on the patio to collect money to donate to the Community Food Bank. There will also be a soup pot for collection at the Sanctuary campus!



February 8
9:15- 11:15



February 8

So...maybe you don't get AS MUCH rest during the Super Bowl as you do during most Youth Sabbath Sunday...but maybe I loved hearing about the rest you did in January. From Legos to laying on the couch to movies and more! Maybe this time, you should send me your favorite football snack!

The Amazing Race is a multi-Emmy Award-winning reality series hosted by Emmy Award-nominated host, Phil Keoghan. But THIS Amazing Race is a Never-Award winning real game, hosted by the 1998 8th Grade MathCounts Runner Up, Rachel Mosher. Come ready to compete with your team in a race around the ~~world~~ church!



February 15
4-6



February 22
4-6

Join us for a low tech, high fun event in the Meditation Garden at St. Mark's! Wear closed toed shoes, bring a water bottle, and be ready to have some fun while we find places we can find God OUTSIDE of the church! Plus games, friends, and fellowship! Don't miss this one!

It's almost time for WINTER CAMP!! This year, we got the camp scheduled over Rodeo Break so that we can spend more time in the trees! We never know the snow situation until we get there, but one thing we DO know is that we will have an amazing time. Mingus Mountain Campground is ready for us!! There are no Youth activities at St. Mark's that weekend...might as well join us!!



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



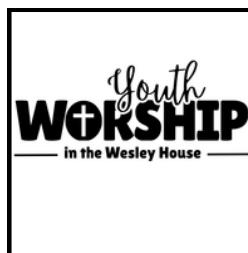
YOUTH NEWS

Winter Camp 2026!!

We still have room in the van to come to Winter Camp at Mingus Mountain. When you sign up, use the code "WiinterCamp100" for a discount for St. Mark's students. If you have been to Mingus- you know how amazing it is! If you haven't, this is your chance! This year, Winter Camp will be held over Rodeo Break, so hopefully more of us can go! Rachel and Spencer are excited and ready to (hopefully!) play in the snow! Don't miss it! Register today at the link on our LinkTree or at <https://mingusmountaincamp.org/winter-camp-2026> and let Rachel know when you do!

Youth Worship

Worship is an important part of our faith journey. Worship matters because it's how we turn our attention back to God, remember who we are, and get re-centered in a world that constantly pulls us in a million directions. When we worship, we bring our real selves—questions, stress, gratitude, doubts, joy—and we meet God. This semester, we will have monthly Youth Worship; a space to encounter God, to learn the practices of faith, to Worship with our friends right there in the Youth Chapel in the Wesley House. Sign up to help lead today! There are opportunities to speak, read, or help with the planning and set up.



Guess Who's Back? Back Again?



Welcome back, Ms. Spencer! Ms. Spencer is coming back on staff as the Youth Ministries Assistant and is excited to back in the Wesley House, hanging out with us and leading United for the students in 4th-7th grades! Don't forget to give her a warm welcome back!

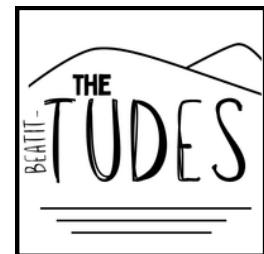
LINK TREE



Check out our updated Link Tree! It's where you can find registration forms and links, payment links, even cool videos we create together! So much information at one little link!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School class has had a great time learning about the Beatitudes. In January, we made a video of where in our world today we see the Beatitudes and had our first Youth Worship during the Sunday School hour. We are so excited for the Lent series. Back by popular demand...the Peeps series! 2026 brings us "Peeps: the Way Through Lent".



Sierra Service Project



Navajo Nation 2026

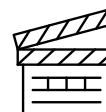
There are only FOUR spots left for our group traveling to the Navajo Nation this summer for Sierra Service Project! We are returning to a favorite site for many St. Mark's SSP alumni!

Our big fundraising pushes are coming up, and we need to hit the ground running for some serious fundraising so that we can go! As soon as these fundraising opportunities are set, I will let you know! If you haven't signed up yet, and plan to, contact Rachel, or sign up, today!

CONFIRMATION '25-'26

We Are Getting Closer!

Confirmation is such a special moment in your spiritual journey. Each retreat, we are one step closer to that special day in May. This year has been really fun, getting to know each other and our new curriculum. We have three more retreats to go for this 2025-2026 school year!



Watch This!

Check out our Beatitudes Video on our social media, link tree or here:



Vince W.	2/06
Siria M.	2/08
Grace H.	2/13

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

International Friend - Jayawanti

My name is Jayawanti Ramakrishna. I am from Coimbatore (Tamilnadu, India). Coimbatore is a major manufacturing hub known for textiles, engineering, and a high number of entrepreneurs, but it is also known for having one of the highest numbers of bakeries per kilometer in India and for its connections to nature. Some of the



things I miss from home the most are the food, strong filter coffee, and being around my family without needing to plan ahead. I also miss the small but noticeable things, like the smell of mud when it starts to rain and the greenery from being close to the Western Ghats. It's the ease of daily life, the people, and the environment that make Coimbatore feel like home, and that's what I miss the most.

I am studying for a Masters of Science in Genetics. My career goal is to start a molecular diagnostics venture in Coimbatore that focuses on reliable and accessible testing and is practical, locally relevant, and impactful. In my free time I enjoy watching movies, cooking and baking, and anything related to art and creativity. I also love scuba diving—it's one of my favorite ways to relax and explore something completely different from everyday life.

One thing that surprised me about Tucson is how beautiful the desert really is, especially during and after it rains. I also like how calm and open the city feels, with so much space, clear skies, and a slower pace of life. My favorite part of the International Friends program is the sense of community that the International Friends program creates. It makes being in a new place feel warmer and more welcoming, and helps you feel connected rather than alone.



Blessing of the Man in the Maze Mosaic

On January 18, we dedicated two new items in our Memorial Garden. The mosaic is designed by church member Ruth Matchley, depicting the Tohono O'odham Man in the Maze symbol. The Land Acknowledgement beside it names the Indigenous peoples who cared for this land long before us. Thank you, Ruth, and Church and Society for your beautiful gifts!



BLACK HISTORY

In 1972 Fred Snowden became the first African American head coach of a major university right here at the University of Arizona. He did so well that in 1973 he was named Tucson's Man of the Year. A KGUN9 report stated,

"It is a sometimes forgotten part of Arizona Basketball history. In ways, it is more important than any conference title or even the 1997 National Championship. It is the hiring of Fred Snowden as Arizona head coach in the early 1970s."

As the first black head coach, Snowden dealt with blatant racism including the constant threat of violence. Nevertheless, Snowden remained committed to his team and focused on the game. In his ten years at the U of A he went 167 - 108. He also mentored his players and instilled in them valuable life lessons: the importance of hard work, perseverance, and determination.

After retiring he was named the executive director of the Food 4 Less non-profit foundation. This month we honor Fred Snowden (AKA 'The Fox') as a trailblazer and role model. - Church and Society



Inaugural Gathering of the Wesley Circle

St. Mark's is excited to launch the Wesley Circle, our new legacy society celebrating those who are helping ensure the future of our church. Everyone is invited to our inaugural gathering! Join us for heavy hors d'oeuvres, fellowship, and inspiring remarks from our guest speaker, Rev. Jerry Haas. You'll also hear stories of how legacy gifts have already made a lasting difference at St. Mark's, and how they can continue to do so for generations to come.

February 7th at 5:30 PM

Fellowship Hall, Magee Campus
RSVP (required) by February 3rd

- Online at bit.ly/wesleycircle
- Or by calling the church office



From the Finance Committee

We wish you and your families a happy and blessed year for 2026. We are grateful for your generosity through the holiday season of 2025. Below are results of income and expenses through the month of December. December collections were higher than the previous year and although we finished the year behind budget, expense savings allowed us to finish the year with a small profit. We have had losses for the past several years and are encouraged by the results for 2025. In addition to the operating budget revenues, the congregation donated \$25,873 to Nash Elementary School.

Description	YTD	Budget	Variance
Contributions	1,175,245	1,261,261	(86,016)
Other Income	76,484	62,500	13,984
Total Income	1,251,729	1,323,761	(72,032)
Expenses	1,237,469	1,364,141	(126,672)
Net Income (Loss)	14,260	(40,380)	54,640

We thank all of you who made pledges during the generosity campaign for 2026. Many who pledged increased their giving. However, we missed our target of 235, receiving 200 pledges totaling \$782,049. The Finance Committee has completed a balanced budget to present to covenant council for approval. We will share more information regarding the 2026 budget next month.



Financial Peace University

Our culture makes it so easy to feel stuck financially. Credit cards, car loans, money stress . . . that's not what God wants for us! That's why our church is hosting a Financial Peace University class starting on **February 25th** at 6 PM. Over nine weeks, we'll walk through God's ways of handling money so we can experience freedom with our finances! Sign up at umcstmarks.breezechms.com/form/FPU2026.

Kim and I took FPU 18 years ago. It's made such a difference in our lives. That's why I volunteered to facilitate this class. No matter how well you're doing, I know the material can help you improve and bring you financial peace.



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

The families and friends of those who have recently passed away:

David Camp	Francis Hydock	Mary Lou Long
Charles Gooding	Janet Krug	Bill Stovall
Margaret Hiratsuka		

Those who need prayers:

Jim Johnson
Beth Thompson

Upcoming Memorial: Mary Lou Long
Saturday, February 14 @ 10 am

Upcoming Memorial: Dave Camp
Thursday, February 19 @ 2 pm

Here's What's Up in Congregational Care...

Are you or someone you know homebound or in a care facility? We recently reviewed our homebound list and have assigned members of the Lay Visitation Team to call or visit those on the list. People are receiving those Lay Visitors and enjoying time with them.

Our Lay Visitors have gone through a training program with Pastor Sharon and are ready to listen and spend time with you. If someone calls you, please welcome them as a caring presence of our congregation.

If you or someone you know should be on our homebound list please give a call or email to the Care Line at 520-783-8837 or pastoral_care@umcstmarks.org. You can also get in touch with the Care Line if you need to speak with a pastor.

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 Lolohena
Associate Pastor:
Deborah Christine
Associate Pastor:
Sharon Ragland

Incredibly *Grateful*

The SPRC gives thanks for and bids farewell to staff member **Matthew Wineinger**. Matthew has been the drummer for the Sanctuary praise team since 2010. Matthew started out as a fill in drummer for the church and quickly moved into the permanent drummer position. Matthew has been the one consistent member of the praise band through all of the leadership transitions of both Praise band leaders and pastor changes.

Matthew is now going through the process to enter an apprenticeship program to be an electrician.

If you missed his last Sunday, we encourage you to reach out to show your appreciation!



Thank You

Thanks to the Marksmen and youth for un-lighting our campus after Christmas, and to everyone who stayed after worship to pack up all our Christmas decor! Many hands make light work, and that was true for this task!

thank you

Thank you to everyone who reached out to ask about my father during the last seven months. He was always amazed that so many people asked about him and prayed for him. You all played a part in helping my dad understand how a caring church truly cares for everyone. Thank you for showing God's love to my father.

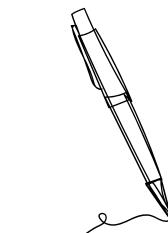
- Lora Wineinger



1431 W. Magee Road
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words from our Pastor

Called by Name

The other day, while having coffee, something simple but meaningful happened. When I pulled up to order my coffee, the barista greeted me by name. It may seem like a small moment, but it truly made my day. In that instant, I was reminded how powerful it is to be known, to be seen and called by name.

That moment pointed me to a deeper spiritual truth. God calls us by name.

Scripture tells us, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine" (Isaiah 43:1). In the middle of the craziness of this world, God's voice remains personal and steady. He does not define us by our circumstances, our labels, or what others may say about us. God sees the heart.

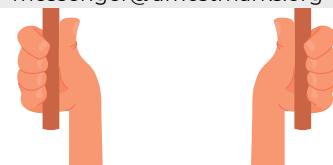
Jesus reminds us, "He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out" (John 10:3). No matter where we come from, what we are carrying, or what season we are in, God knows us intimately and calls us His own. His love reaches beyond titles, roles, and opinions. It reaches the person.

For a little over a month now, I have been meeting weekly for Coffee with Pastor T. These moments of conversation, listening, prayer, and presence have reminded me why connection matters so much in the life of the church. This experience has encouraged me to keep this going.

I want to invite you to join me.

Coffee with Pastor T takes place every Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm at Starbucks on Silverbell and Twin Peaks by the Safeway. Whether you come with questions, stories, or simply a desire for fellowship, you are welcome. Come as you are. God already knows your name.

Pastor T



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