

## Holy Week Observances

### March 29 - Palm Sunday

8:30 & 10 am - Traditional Service *Magee Campus*  
10 am - Modern Service *Sanctuary Campus*  
3 pm - "Touched By The Christ" *Magee Campus*

### Monday March 30 - Saturday, April 4

Self-guided prayer stations available in the Meditation Garden. *Magee Campus*

Every Wednesday of Lent!

### April 1 - Magee Campus

4:45 pm - Sanctuary open for contemplation & prayer  
5:00 pm - Taizé style Communion & prayer service  
5:30 pm - Dinner in the Fellowship Hall  
6:15 pm - Classes, choir, or a time to visit

### April 2 - Maundy/Holy Thursday *Magee Campus*

12 pm - Communion in the Meditation Garden  
6:30 pm - Maundy/Holy Thursday Service

### April 3 - Good Friday *Magee Campus*

12 pm - Harp in the Meditation Garden  
6:30 pm - Good Friday Service

### Coming up in the Meditation Gardens

We will be installing a new butterfly mosaic before the 22nd of March. It will be on the Way of the Cross trail. On Sunday the 22nd, the Sunday School kids will be painting rocks and placing them along the trail. The kids will also be learning about butterflies and dedicating the new mosaic.

During Holy Week we will be having communion in the labyrinth at noon on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, and harp music in the labyrinth at noon on Good Friday, April 3rd.

The Meditation Gardens are open to the public all during Lent. Discover a new way to deepen your Lenten experience. Guides are available in the Gardens.

## Easter SUNDAY APRIL 5 2026

### SUNRISE SERVICE - 6 AM

Our youth plan and lead our sunrise service as we worship God with the sun rising over the Catalina Mountains.

### EASTER BRUNCH

You are invited to a delicious grab-and-go style Easter Brunch, provided by St. Mark's Youth. You are welcome to eat your brunch at church or take it to go! Brunch will be served between services on Easter Morning. Donations for brunch will support youth ministries & missions.

### MORNING WORSHIP

We will worship at our usual times on each campus. Music will feature a brass quartet, bells, and choirs on the Magee Campus traditional services and our Praise Band on the Sanctuary Campus.

Although this is a first Sunday of the month, we will *not* celebrate Holy Communion in our main worship services. Communion will be available in the Library between services and at the Sunrise service. Watch for details.



Order your flowers now to fill our worship spaces on Easter Sunday! Orders will be taken on special order forms in worship or online at <https://umcstmarks.breezechms.com/form/flowers38>.

### EASTER FLOWERS

We will once again transform our cross into a testimony of new life and springtime. Bring a flower Easter Sunday to decorate the cross!



## ADULT EDUCATION

ST. MARK'S  
UMCREGISTER  
ONLINE AT
[umcstmarks.org/classes/adult-spiritual-growth-opportunities](https://umcstmarks.org/classes/adult-spiritual-growth-opportunities)
We have a  
seat at the  
table for you!

**CHECK OUT PAGE 3 FOR INFORMATION ON ALL OUR LENTEN STUDIES!**

**Adult Sunday School** - 9:30 am Sundays in Rooms 17/18 and via Zoom. Please register online or contact 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. One of the themes of Joshua is that God keeps his promises, which included giving land to the wandering Israelites. We will be reading the most b-o-r-i-n-g part of Joshua, which is the description of how Canaan is going to be divided up among the tribes. However, there are underlying questions that we will be discussing in the next few weeks. Why is it important for people to have a place to call home; both as individuals and as a community? Are there limits to what people should do to satisfy that desire? How are those limits determined? Please feel free to join our discussion at any time.

**Monday Mornings at Mountain View Retirement Village** - 10:30 am in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. All are welcome, even if you don't live in the Village! *Read more on page 3!*

**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 on page 3!*

**Open Minds Book Group** - Friday, 3/27, at 9 am on Zoom will discuss Brave the Wild River: The Untold Story of Two Women Who Mapped the Botany of the Grand Canyon, by Melissa Sevigny (2023), tells the story of botanists Elzada Clover and Lois Jotter, who in 1938 undertook an ambitious rafting expedition on the churning waters of the Colorado River to survey the Canyon's vegetation. Based on their letters and diaries, Sevigny traces the 43-day journey, during which they risked their lives to create an unprecedented botanical map of a remote landscape. The discussion is 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month in the Library on the Magee Campus at 9am. Contact Kitty Tobin for more information.

**Play Farkle!** 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

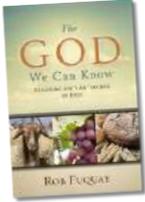
**Primavera Meals** - Various. Teams of 5-7 people making a meal and serving it at the Primavera men's shelter once a month.

# 2026 Lenten Studies

*Unless noted otherwise, all studies are held at the Magee campus:*

## MONDAYS

**The God We Can Know Study at Mountain View Retirement Village** - 10:30 am Mondays, beginning February 16<sup>th</sup>, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.



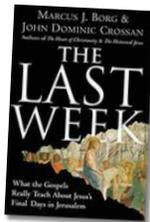
All are welcome, even if you don't live in the Village! The weekly lessons will make reference to the book: *The God We Can Know* by Rob Fuquay. The book is about knowing God and knowing God through Jesus. Purchasing a book is not required.

Lessons and Bibles are provided each week. Led by Marge Sogn.

**The Last Week by Borg and Crossan Study** - 6:30 pm Mondays, beginning February 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Barnes & Noble Cafe off La Cholla Blvd.

Top Jesus scholars Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan join to reveal a radical and little-known Jesus. Using Mark's gospel as a guide, the authors present a day-by-day account of Jesus' final week of life.

Please join us in exploring what really was happening in that last week before the crucifixion in this seven week study. Class ends on Monday, March 30. Led by Marlyce Wright.



## WEDNESDAYS *cont'd*

**"In the Defense..." Lenten Study** - 10 am Wednesdays, Beginning February 18, in Rooms 17/18 and via Zoom.

We will continue a simulation of court hearings concerning the characters who played a role in the crucifixion of Jesus.

In March, the class will conduct trials of the following defendants: Peter (March 4), Pontius Pilate (March 11), the Disciples who abandoned Jesus (March 18), and the Centurions (March 25). There will be no class on April 1. Please feel free to drop in at any time and witness the class participants play the role of the Prosecutor, the Defense Attorney, the Trial Judge, the Accused, the Court Room Bailiff, and the Jury. If you wish to attend via Zoom, please contact Marcia Rostad, study leader, for connection information.

## THURSDAYS

**Witnesses to the Cross Study** - 1:30 pm Thursdays, at the Country Club of La Cholla.

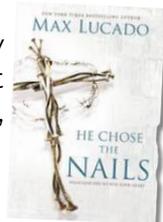
This 6-week series will concentrate on people who were deeply involved with the last days of the earthly life of Jesus. We may find that people today can relate easily with these historical characters. Purchasing a book is not required; you will be asked to read about these people in your Bible. Led by Linda Walker.

## WEDNESDAYS

**He Chose the Nails Study** - 9:30 am Wednesdays at Roadrunner Coffee, Linda Vista and Thornydale. Led by Carol Witherspoon.

*The wood. The thorns. The nails.*

Christ's sacrifice has defined the very essence of mankind's faith for the past 2000 years. With his warm caring style, Max examines the symbols surrounding Christ's crucifixion, revealing the claims of the cross and asserting that if they are true, Christianity itself is true. The supporting evidence either makes the cross the single biggest hoax of all time, or the hope of all humanity.



## TUESDAY PRAYER TIME

Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, the Magee Campus sanctuary will be open for prayer. A pastor will be present from 10-10:45 am, if you would like to pray with someone. Prayer prompts based on the I AM statements of Jesus will be available if you wish to use them.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. This year Ash Wednesday was February 18.

## Why ashes?

**We wear ashes to remember:**

We are fragile and human. We need God's mercy as much as anyone. Suffering and grief are real in our world. Death does not have the final word.



# Save the Date

## Calling All Kids! Music Camp

Our Summer Musical Bible School will be **June 22-26**, 9 am – 3 pm, with the children presenting the program during both worship services on Sunday, June 28.

This is always a wonderful and joy-filled week for the children of St. Mark's and our community. Be sure to mark your calendars and invite your children, grandchildren, and neighbors to be part of this special experience. More information coming soon!

The Animal Ministry Team is pleased to announce the annual Pet Memorial Service on **Sunday, April 26** at 3 pm



If you would like your pet's picture to appear in a video montage during the service, please email it to [emmanuel@umcstmarks.org](mailto:emmanuel@umcstmarks.org) no later than Monday, 20 April. You can also bring your photo to the church office to be scanned.



## Calling All Musicians!

The Sanctuary Campus praise team is looking for new musicians! We would love to find a new singer or two who love to harmonize, as well as instrumentalists on guitar, bass, or drums. If you have thought about wanting to join but didn't see a need, or can't commit to every Sunday, don't let that stop you! If we have enough people, it means we can rotate who is playing on a given week!

If you are interested in joining the praise team, please email Cindy, [cindy@umcstmarks.org](mailto:cindy@umcstmarks.org), for more information or to set up a time for an audition.



A tea to provide support, encouragement and friendship for those who have had breast cancer or are currently going through treatment. All are welcome.

For questions or info contact Pastor Sharon at [sharon@umcstmarks.org](mailto:sharon@umcstmarks.org) or on the Care Line: 520-783-8837 or [pastoral\\_care@umcstmarks.org](mailto:pastoral_care@umcstmarks.org)  
Brought to you by the Counselor in Residence committee

**from Jane:** *March is a Busy Month for Concerts at St. Mark's! We have an exciting lineup of music and worship opportunities you won't want to miss:*



### Sunday, March 1 at 3 pm

*Puppies and kittens and birds, Oh My!*

This concert is an homage to our furred, finned, and feathered friends. Desert Voices (Dr. James Higgs, conductor) and UA Symphonic Choir (Dr. Elizabeth Schauer) share a fun and artful program about and inspired by animals to benefit PACC (Pima Animal Care Center). This concert is free, and donations will be gratefully accepted.



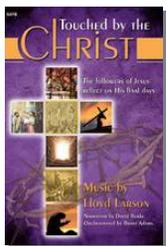
### TUCSON ARIZONA BOYS CHORUS

#### Sunday, March 8 at 3 pm

The Tucson Boys Chorus joins us on campus.

Come encourage these talented young men as they share their love of music. Tickets are \$15.

<https://boyschorus.org/purchase-tickets/>



### Sunday, March 29 at 3 pm

St. Mark's Combined Choirs, Faith on Stage, Bell Choir, and Orchestra will present a very special program directed by Jane Anderson.

*Touched by the Christ* recalls the final days of Jesus' earthly life through the eyes of those directly impacted by His ministry. Through a powerful blending of personal narrative and music, this moving work offers a fresh look at the Messiah who came to bring hope to the hurting and broken. It is an invitation to walk the path to the foot of the cross and encounter the One who calls us to be changed by His eternal love and grace.



United Women in Faith

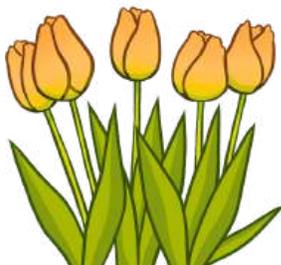
*\*All contact information can be found in your Breeze directory*

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.



### Soup for the Soul Sunday, 3/8

United Women in Faith will sell Soup for the Soul at both campuses after each service. A variety of soups will be available in 16-ounce containers for \$5 each. Funds raised will support UWF mission efforts.



### March Donations Sundays, 3/8 & 3/15

Please bring donations of diapers, pull-ups, incontinence supplies and period products to support the Diaper Bank. Collection boxes will be in the courtyard at the Magee Campus Sundays, March 8 and 15. If you are attending the Sanctuary Campus, please give your donations to Johanna Eubank.

## United Women in Faith March Meetings

### 10 AM Tuesday 3/10

The United Women in Faith unit meeting will be in Rooms 17/18. Refreshments and fellowship begin at 9:30, followed by the meeting. The program is on Prayer and Self Denial.

### 9 AM Tuesday 3/17

Grace Circle will meet in Rooms 17/18. After devotions, the group will deliver diapers to the Diaper Bank.



### 9:30 AM Saturday 3/21 & 3/28

CAYA (Come as You Are), a new circle, in Rooms 17/18. The book being discussed is Jane Goodall's *The Book of Hope*, but you don't have to have read the book to participate. CAYA will also meet at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 28, at the home of Deborah Nelson. Email Deborah at [deborahnelson2351@yahoo.com](mailto:deborahnelson2351@yahoo.com) for details.

### 9 AM Tuesday 3/24

Craft Circle will meet in rooms 17/18. You don't have to be crafty to come and have a good time. Bring any ideas you have to share.



A big SHOUT OUT to the Chancel Choir for preparing the Primavera meal in January, and to the United Women in Faith for preparing the February meal.

To all our Primavera meal volunteers: thank you for your hard work and dedication. You make such an important difference in our community.



**Safer Sanctuaries Training at Sanctuary Campus** on March 1 immediately after the service. All are encouraged attend.

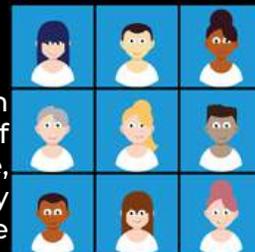


Vicki, Barb, Kay, Anita, Susan, Karen

### New Member Class!

Our next new member class will be **March 7, 9 am to noon**

Are you interested in making St. Mark's your church home? Join us to learn about the history of Methodism and St. Mark's, discover what we believe, and explore where God is leading us as a community of faith in Tucson. All are welcome—especially those considering membership.



Contact Tricia for more information! [tricia@umcstmarks.org](mailto:tricia@umcstmarks.org)



# Missions Ministry

## You Can Help w/ Hands-On-Mission Project

St. Mark's is sponsoring TiHAN's Poz Café on **April 16**. (TiHAN is the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network.) For 31 years, TiHAN has supported people in our community who are HIV+ through connection, referrals to helpful agencies, and education that reduces stigma. St. Mark's has partnered with TiHAN for almost all those years.

Poz Café is a monthly luncheon for CarePartners (clients) with catered food, table service, and centerpieces — plus social time, Bingo, raffle prizes, and CarePackages. In April, St. Mark's and Beautiful Saviour Lutheran Church will be sponsors.

YOU can help! We need 5 volunteers to set up, serve, and clean up. We're collecting CarePackage items (hygiene/household supplies that cannot be purchased with SNAP). This year we're collecting:

- 160 household cleaners (24–32 oz.)
- 160 regular-size shampoos
- 80 square boxes of Kleenex
- At least six \$15 gift cards to Fry's, Walmart, or Target
- 18 centerpieces

Drop off items/gift cards at the East Patio table on March 22, March 29, and April 12. To help with centerpieces, volunteer, or ask questions, contact Pat Small: 520-429-4453 or [patriciausmall@gmail.com](mailto:patriciausmall@gmail.com).



Mary Beth & Deb Colodner, the Director of Conservation and Science at the Arizona Desert Museum

With gratitude and joy, the Missions Committee celebrates the **\$3,294.35** raised through our Thanksgiving Offering to support Tohono O'odham youth participating in a cultural camp through the Arizona Desert Museum. This gift was presented by Mary Beth Barone on behalf of the congregation.

Thank you for your generous spirit and faithful giving. Your support will help nurture cultural traditions, environmental stewardship, and meaningful opportunities for young people in our wider community.

Learn more about the Cultural Camp experience from one of the teachers., **Tuesday, 3/3 at 3PM** in the Magee campus sanctuary!

## Blood Drive



**Sunday, March 1**

The Red Cross states there is a severe blood shortage with only 35% of shelves full. "Quoting, All hearts in--all sleeves up"! Please help, if possible!



<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=stmarks>



Sign up now!

St. Mark's UMC is sponsoring a "Rise Against Hunger" campaign this year to package dried high protein nutritious foods to be sent to communities where hunger is prevalent.

Our food packaging event is on **Sunday, March 15, 2026** at the Magee Campus in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers must be 12 years or older and must be able to stand (or sit) at a table for up to 1.5 hours to package dried foods. Gloves will be provided.

For more information about "Rise Against Hunger" follow this link: [Rise Against Hunger](#).

To sign up for a volunteer shift, click on this link: Scroll down and fill out the form.

<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/SMUMC2026>



## MARKET ON THE MOVE



**SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 8-10 AM**

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

Yes! 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 pull forward, pop your trunk, and we'll load your vehicle! Questions or to volunteer talk with Lenna Burnham or call the church office.

# 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 am, and Youth Group meets most Sundays from 4-6 pm.

REMINDER- MARCH 1 is a Youth Sabbath, for Rodeo Break! Take a break, and we will see you March 8!

FRIDAY March 6 5-8PM



*Confirmation*  
A Journey to Gather,  
Connect, and Serve

**RETREAT #5**

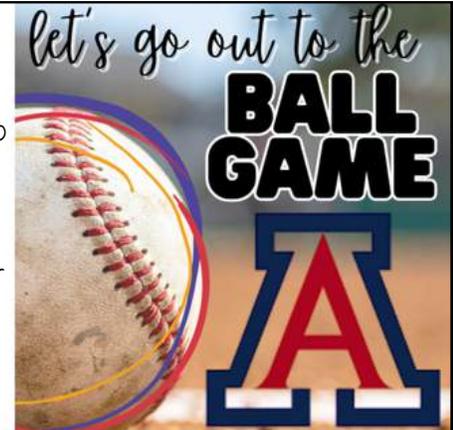
Retreat #5 will be so special as we share some pizza and gather around God's mystery and into God's Family and we Connect with our faith. We are nearing the end of our Confirmation journey, and Evy and Rachel can't wait to meet with you all on March 6! See you there!

March 8

11:15 AM

Hey, batter, batter, batter! SWING! Help us cheer on the Wildcats when they play a game against Fresno State. Either bring a sack lunch for the drive or money for the concession stands. We will cover your admission, snacks are on your own!

Bear Down!!



March 15

**YOUTH**  
**SABBATH**  
**REST.**  
**REFLECT.**  
**CONNECT.**

SPRING BREAK 2026!! Some of you might be going on vacation for Spring Break! (I can fit in suitcases really well...) and some of you may just need the chance to rest and catch your breath with a busy busy semester. Whatever the case may be, here is your chance! Take the opportunity to rest, either at home or on the road! Send us pictures of how you rest!

March 22

UNITED

1:00-3:00

THE FLOOR IS LAVA!

There's a new indoor adventure park in town so I figured United is the perfect fit to test out the action! Come ready to jump, run, and parkour your way to fun. If you have grippy socks, don't forget to bring them! Invite a friend & bring \$5 for your ticket. Scholarships are available!



March 22

4:00-6:00



Easter is an exciting morning in the youth department! But it takes some serious planning. Join us March 22 to get the Sunrise Service planned, Brunch planned, and figure out where YOU get to serve! And some games to round out the good times! The more people we have help plan, the more fun we have! See you there!

March 29

Time TBA

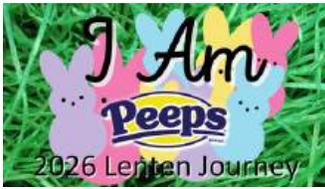
On Palm Sunday, we will do some fun mission work with Iskashitaa Refugee Network! Join us as we help by being a part of the food security solution in our community! Sometimes neighbors need a little help harvesting their produce, and sometimes our neighbors need a little help getting food. We get to help bridge that gap! Please wear long sleeves and closed toe shoes. Bring a water bottle, hat, and sunscreen!



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



# YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL



Back by popular demand... Peeps! Each Lent, the youth at St. Mark's have made some amazing dioramas using Peeps! We have made the Stations of the

Cross, we have depicted scenes from the life of Jesus, and the stories in the parables. This year, join us as we use Peeps to look at the I AM statements that Jesus made. I can't wait to see what you all create- this is always so much fun!

# SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT



July 5 will be here before you know it! We are now in our BIG fundraising season, making sure that everyone who signed up gets to the site in the Navajo Nation! In March, you will be asked to participate in our first Pay-to-Day fundraiser. This fundraiser is one that we will take off campus! In April, sign up for another new fundraiser-



Pack the Suitcase! This one will be on both campuses, after services. These two new fundraisers will directly help SSP!

Check your e-mail for more information.

## Hey Seniors!

If you are graduating this year, we would love to honor you! Please send Rachel your senior picture, your school (and your degree if you are graduating from college) and any cool information you want to share, such as next year's plans, or any fun distinctions you have earned. Senior Sunday (with a breakfast and being honored in worship) will be May 17.



## Youth Worship

Our monthly worship in the Youth Chapel in place of Sunday School has been such a fantastic time

together. It has been a joy to watch you lead different parts of worship, and share in our beautiful youth chapel with you. We still have spaces for reading, presenting, or many other ways to lead for our remaining Youth Worship Services this semester. This is a great space for you to try new things, and get used to the flow of worship. What would you like to try in our next service? Sign up today!

## Youth Fundraisers

Save the Dates



It's time for our regular spring fundraisers! Easter brunch and our Treasure Trove Rummage Sale are coming up! We need all the help we can get for both of these.

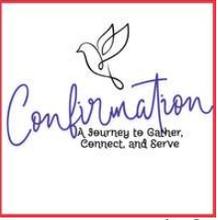
April 4 we need help prepping our DELICIOUS Easter breakfast. April 5, help us serve the congregation after we lead Sunrise Service. Then April 16-17 we will be pricing and organizing donated items to sell on April 18. Sign up today!



# CONFIRMATION '25-'26

## Gather, Connect, Serve

Throughout the school year, eight amazing students have discussed ways that we Gather, Connect, and Serve. We have found out so much about our faith, our church, and even ourselves. There are only two retreats left before Confirmation Sunday, on May 17, at the 10am service on the Magee Campus!



Confirmation Sunday is an exciting Sunday in the life of the church. It's such a great day for us to all share with one another.



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!

Juliet James March 22

# LINK TREE



What's a Linktree!? Think of it like a bulletin board- a one stop shop, if you will! Scan this QR code to find the links to all things Youth! Sign up for events, Pay for registrations, get a new permission slip...it has it all!



# Church & Society



## Women's History Month

Women's History Month started as a local celebration in California in 1978, and was designated as a national week by President Carter in 1980. Congress expanded this to a month in 1987, honoring women's contributions and milestones, while recognizing ongoing challenges in gender equality. Women's History month is a time to reflect on the countless ways women have shaped our world.

One of Tucson's earliest and most influential female leaders was Josephine Brawley Hughes, a pioneer of justice and service. In the late 1800s she helped establish the first Methodist church in Tucson and used her platform to advocate for temperance, education, and suffrage. Her leadership reflected her deep belief that faith and civic engagement go hand in hand and that a community shaped by women's voices is stronger and more just.

## St Mark's Worldwide Christian Support Task Force

NEW REPORTS: Russia continues to attack Christians in Ukraine

Russia aims to replace existing Christian faiths with Russian beliefs. We have reports from 3 groups.

The Institute for the Study of War says, "Russia continues to weaponize religion". The Russian forces have taken over 76 churches. These include Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant churches. Attacks on Protestants are worst in southern Ukraine. Russians looted, ransacked, or destroyed 13 churches. They killed or captured 29 leaders.

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom also supports this. They list 640 sites that have been damaged or destroyed. They claim at least 42 leaders have been killed.

The Ukrainian Resistance Center reports that Moscow priests have seen Russian officials torture Protestants. They have seen Ukrainian children forced to pray for the 'Russkiy Mir' (Russian World).

Pray for Ukraine: O Lord, Your believers in Ukraine are being attacked because they are freely expressing their Christian faith and not giving in to tyranny. Please give them courage and strength and comfort them.



St. Mark's Quilters thank you for your donations of cotton fabrics, sewing supplies, and money. They are greatly appreciated as we make quilts for various services in the Tucson area! Last year we were able to donate 990 quilts to Healthy Families, Hope Incorporated, Haven, AVIVA, Angel Baby Quilts, DaVita, Desert Dialysis Center, Fort Yuma-Quechan Reservation and Nash Elementary School.

We always ask one of our pastors to bless the quilts before they are delivered. Earlier this month Pastor Lynn blessed 25 Angel Baby Quilts, 10 Quilts for Hope Incorporated and 60 quilts for Healthy Families.

You are invited to come see what we are doing any Thursday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in rooms 17-18. As we cut fabric, sew and tie-quilts, we enjoy conversation while we work. You are welcome to join us and you do not have to know how to make a quilt.

St. Mark's Quilters

Heart Works is a group of ladies from Magee and Sanctuary campuses that sew Happy Bags for children and teens in the foster care system. We deliver these bags to AVIVA on a quarterly basis. In 2025, we were able to deliver 1,070 bags. Each quarter the bags along with 50 handmade quilts made by St. Mark's Quilters are blessed by a member of the pastoral staff before delivery to their forever homes. Thank you to all who contributed. So grateful and blessed!

- Heart Works



## Lay Servant Ministries

Gretchen Lofgren, Director, South District LSM

One person who strongly believed in Lay Servant Ministries was the late Kelly Deyoe. He took the Introduction/Basic class in 2003. After taking more classes, he soon took over the duties of South District Director, a position he worked diligently at until his passing last year (2025). As a quadriplegic, he set a shining example of a true Lay Servant to many. I took my first class in 2007. I was extremely shy and thought it would help me be more comfortable speaking with others. I enjoyed the classes and in 2010, Kelly approached me about "assisting" him with the program. I was fortunate to work with Kelly for over 15 years.



### What is Lay Servant Ministries?

Lay Servant Ministries is one of the most significant and rewarding lay Leadership development programs within the United Methodist connection.

Lay Servants have been a vital part of the Methodist movement which started with John Wesley and still exists today as Lay Servant Ministries.

Some ordained pastors and District Superintendents can testify that their call to ministry started with Lay Servant Classes. Many pastors recommend the Introduction/Basic class for their Lay Leaders and Chairs of committees. Our own D.S. Javier Olivares is a strong supporter of this ministry and encourages laity to take classes.

The Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries/Basic class is the foundation for all classes and is an overview of the program in these three areas: Caring, Communicating, and Leading. Some Lay Servants go on to pursue becoming a Certified Lay Speaker and even a Certified Lay Minister. However, public speaking (i.e. speaking from the pulpit) is not a requirement when taking Lay Servant classes unless you choose to do so.

The next Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries/Basic class will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at St John's UMC in Tucson. Classes are only \$15 and you buy your own book. Should the in-person class not work for you, plans are currently underway to offer this course via ZOOM sometime in the future.

You can register for this class at: <https://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions/>

## From the Finance Committee

Covenant Council has approved the budget recommended by the Finance Committee. Based on pledges received, projected contributions are lower than last year, resulting in a reduced overall contribution projection. We maintained last year's allocations of 7.5% to missions and 70% for apportionments, but did not include funding for the Trustees' capital improvement projects. A budget breakdown is provided at the right.

Since it is tax season, we are sharing information you may find helpful as you complete your return. Arizona taxpayers may claim a credit (Forms 323/348) for contributions to a school tuition organization that provides scholarships for students attending private schools. Contributions designated for the 2025 tax year may be made during 2025 or between January 1 and April 15, 2026, and still qualify for the 2025 credit—offering added flexibility while supporting local students.

St. Mark's Early Childhood Center (ECC) has provided play-based, developmentally appropriate programs for young children for 51 years, with current enrollment of 110 students. The ECC is blessed with 22 early childhood educators that guide and nurture the children each day.

Contributions \$1,133,614	
Other Income \$163,798	
<b>Total Income \$1,297,412</b>	
Pastoral and Lay staff \$835,259	Trustees \$169,352
Admin and Programs \$95,340	Missions \$85,021
Apportionments \$112,440	
<b>Total Expenses \$1,297,412</b>	

Scholarships are available for the kindergarten students through the Arizona tax credit program. Contributions eligible for the credit are limited to \$769/\$766 for single, heads of households and married filing separate filers (total of \$1,535), and \$1,535/\$1,527 for married couples filing a joint tax return (total of \$3,062) when using the Original Individual Tax Credit (Form 323) and PLUS/Switcher Tax Credit (Form 348). The credit cannot exceed current year Arizona income tax liability, but any unused amount can be carried over for five (5) years. The ECC has recommended that donors use the Institute for Better Education (IBE) to make contributions by going to the IBE website at [www.ibescholarships.org](http://www.ibescholarships.org).



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](mailto:prayerchain@umcstmarks.org) or on our website at [umcstmarks.breezechms.com/form/PrayerRequest](http://umcstmarks.breezechms.com/form/PrayerRequest)

Liza Carsten  
 April Duboce  
 Jim Johnson  
 Beth Thompson

The family of Jeanne Padgitt  
 Alice Brown  
 Mary Lu Kiracofe  
 Sue Davis

People in hospice:  
 Mary Ann Glazier, John Lennarson,  
 Priscilla McInnis, Charles and Sonya Moore

### Thanks & an Update from Nash Neighbors!

For 23 years, the Nash Neighbors outreach program has received the support of our congregation as we combat food insecurity and support education in the neighborhood surrounding Nash Elementary School. Nash Neighbors is grateful for the St. Mark's congregation for your generous support of Nash Elementary School through the special Christmas offering which totaled **\$16, 321!**

As the Amphitheater School District consolidates schools and closes Nash, we want to reassure you that our vital ministry will continue. We recently had a joint meeting with the Southern Arizona Food Bank, several school Principals, and members of the Nash Neighbors committee. The bottom line is that the need for the partnership that St. Mark's has developed with Nash Elementary School exists at other schools and we are excited to start this new chapter. As soon as we have specific details to communicate to the congregation we will let you know.



Carol Cecilia  
 Chairperson, Nash Neighbors



(520) 297-2062

Email: [info@umcstmarks.org](mailto:info@umcstmarks.org)

Website: [umcstmarks.org](http://umcstmarks.org)

YouTube: UMC St. Mark's AZ

**Magee Campus**

1431 W Magee Rd  
 Tucson, AZ 85704

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10 a.m.

*live streamed at 10 a.m.*

*on our website and YouTube*

**Sanctuary Campus**

8000 N Silverbell  
 Tucson, AZ 85743

Sunday Worship 10 am

**Lead Pastor:**

Rev. Lynn Bartlow

**Sanctuary Campus Pastor:**

Tu'ulauena Lolohena

**Associate Pastor:**

Rev. Deborah Christine

**Associate Pastor:**

Rev. Sharon Ragland



Children and Family Ministries is excited for Lent! Each year, the Sunday School program has a Lenten project that helps and supports our community. This year, we will be partnering with Marana Family Resource Center to help provide needed items for children and families. The Sunday School children are looking forward to this worthwhile project, and we need your help! On Sundays, March 15, 22, and 29 the Sunday School children will be collecting packages of new socks and underwear for children, women, and men. All sizes are needed and boxer briefs for men have been requested. A donation table will be set up in the courtyard. Thank you for supporting the St. Mark's Sunday School program and the Marana Family Resource Center



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PANGAKE PARTY

The staff is grateful for ALL the volunteers who make St. Mark's such a meaningful and vibrant church. We recently hosted an appreciation event as a small way to say thank you. If you missed it, give yourself a pat on the back and say "well done!"





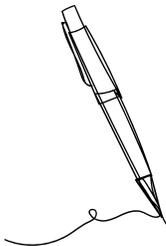
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*words from our Pastor*

**How are you at resting?** My Star Word for this year is ABIDE. I must admit that I am better at being busy than I am at abiding. One of my spiritual gifts is that of service, which explains why I enjoy cooking and serving dinners at the church!

The rhythms of life that God put into motion includes rest alongside work. While I am careful to take my Sabbath day each week (or at least most weeks!), our scriptures also give a provision for a bigger rest. Every seven years, the Jewish people were instructed to let the land rest (see Leviticus 25:1-7).

In the United Methodist Church, we have long allowed pastors to take a longer period of rest. Our Book of Discipline allows ordained ministers with at least six years of full-time service to take up to six months of leave for spiritual, physical, and emotional refreshment while retaining their appointment. It is a proactive, intentional time for rest, preventing burnout, and returning with renewed energy.

This summer, I will be taking three months of renewal leave, following this provision. The SPRC and Covenant Council have joined our Superintendent in giving permission for me to be gone from May 1 to August 1.

While I am away, St. Mark's will be in good hands. Rev. Dr. Evy McDonald will lead worship in May, Rev. Sharon Ragland in June, and Rev. Deborah Christine in July. These familiar faces will be joined by the UWF, Music Camp participants, youth in Confirmation class, and more. Ministry and life here at St. Mark's will continue to grow and flourish.

I'll share more about my plans for my Sabbatical as the time grows near. I will begin with a retreat, celebrate my sister's college graduation, and take a road trip with my husband. Above all, it will be a time to shift gears, disengage, study, reflect, and rest.

Please reach out if you have any questions. In the meantime, I invite you to rest!

*Pastor Lynn*