St. Mark's United Methodist
Volume 66
No. 11
November 2026

MESSENGER

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

ASL Interpreted Church Service



Beginning November 1, St. Mark's will offer American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation during our 10 am worship service at the Magee Campus. We are excited to take this step toward making worship more accessible and welcoming for members of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community! As part of our ongoing goal to reach new people, we are especially mindful of new neighbors in our community, including the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind campus that has recently moved nearby. Please help us spread the word to friends and neighbors who may benefit from this new ministry, and put your best welcoming foot forward!



IT'S TIME FOR A ROOTIN' TOOTIN' YOUTH FUNDRAISER!



We are hosting a delicious Chili Cook-Off in the Fellowship Hall on **November 14th 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. There will also be an awesome Silent Auction full of goodies to bid on! Plus, students will be hosting games in the courtyard. It promises to be a really fun evening! Bring a friend!

Thanksgiving Offering

This Thanksgiving, our special offering will support United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona's Accelerate Quality program, helping increase access to high-quality early care and education for young children throughout Pima County. Your gifts will help children begin life with strong opportunities to learn and grow while also supporting parents who are working to provide for their families. As we give thanks for the blessings in our own lives, we invite you to help give local children and families a strong start. Look for special envelopes in the pews or give online.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Before the cooking, traveling, gathering, and celebrating begin, take time to give thanks. Join us for *Thanksgiving Eve worship* as we pause together to remember God's goodness and the many gifts that fill our lives. Our choirs will lead us in music, we will gather around the Communion table, and we will offer our prayers of gratitude together. Come begin your Thanksgiving with worship and thanksgiving on **Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 pm** in the Magee campus sanctuary.

Thanksgiving Dinner

There's always room at the table! Join our St. Mark's family for Thanksgiving Dinner at **Noon on Thanksgiving Day**. We'll provide the turkey; you bring a favorite side dish to share. Sign up to join us—and if you can lend a hand with set-up or clean-up, there's a place to sign up for that, too. Come share good food, good company, and plenty to be thankful for!

ADULT EDUCATION

ST. MARK'S UMC

REGISTER ONLINE AT umcstmarks.org/classes/adult spiritual growth-opportunites

We have a seat at the table for you!

Starr Gazing *A monthly article*

by Starr Austin, Assoc. Director of Discipleship

I'm already busy, and it's not even Thanksgiving yet. Not to mention, I really dislike the word "busy". It feels immediately dismissive and self-important. We are all entering the holiday season. Halloween just ended with its costumes, trunk-or-treats, and school carnivals, and now our thoughts turn to dinners with family or friends. The space in my mind is cluttered, just like my ever-expanding calendar. Busy!

At last month's leaders' circle, we explored pastoral care as leaders. We talked about keeping our cup replenished and making space for God to wow us. This Creator we serve gives us ample opportunity to connect, to be astonished, and to praise. "Busy" drowns out God's goodness when we put a pressing calendar of to-do's or the perfectly cooked sweet potatoes over first connecting to God.

How do you start your day? I invite you this month to turn to God in Thanksgiving each day. Invite a friend to share daily gratitudes with you. Find 5 things to be grateful for every day, write them down, then thank God for them. Perhaps you can find 5 minutes per morning to turn to meditation and prayer, to quiet the mind, to be still and know He is God.

ST. MARK'S LEADER CIRCLE

How do we create and keep good covenants?

Leaders circle will meet Saturday, November 21st at 11 am in the library. This month we will explore *leadership through boundaries.* As leaders in the church, How do we create and keep good covenants in our groups, building a container for the work, and hold boundaries with time, communication, and behaviors? Come find out! Let's explore leadership development together. All interested members are welcome. The class is designed with leaders of our small groups in mind.

CLASSES & STUDIES

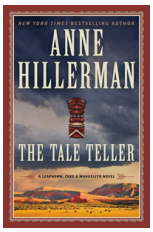
Adult Sunday School - *9:30 am Sundays in Rooms 17/18 and via Zoom*. Please register online or contact Rick Farnsworth to obtain Zoom information. Led by Rick Farnsworth.

Seekers Sunday Bible Study – *11:15 am Sundays in Rooms 17/18.* Scriptures from the Old Testament are not often used as the basis for Sunday sermons, but the Old Testament is more than half of our Bible! These are the scriptures that Jesus and his disciples would have been taught. Seekers Bible Study wants to learn about the whole Bible, including books that often are not preached. Therefore, we alternate studies from the New Testament with studies from the Old Testament.
Please register online or contact Brenda Hunter to obtain Zoom information. Led by Brenda Hunter.

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

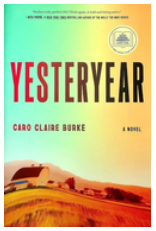
Wednesday Morning Study - *10 am Wednesdays in Rooms 17/18 and via Zoom.*

Open Minds Book Group will meet on *Friday, November 20th at 9 am on Zoom* to discuss ***The Tale Teller***, a novel by Anne



Hillerman (2019). Joe Leaphorn, a retired tribal policeman, has been hired to find a missing biil, a traditional weaving, that was donated to the Navajo Nation. His investigation takes a sinister turn when the lead suspect dies under mysterious circumstances. Hillerman combines crime, superstition, and tradition in this mystery that brings the desert southwest vividly to life. Led by Celeste Pardee.

Love a good book—and an even better conversation?
Join us to discuss ***Yesteryear,*** by Caro Claire Burke at *6:30 pm, Friday, November 20th in the Library.* Bring your thoughts, your questions, and your opinions. We don't have to agree to have a great discussion! Come meet fellow readers, discover new perspectives, and enjoy connecting over a shared story.
Please read the book beforehand. We welcome you.



Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Dear families, parents, and caregivers,

Discipleship is pleased to announce the return of Sunday school classes on our Sanctuary Campus beginning **November 8**! Catriona Swanson will be our lead teacher. We will need a volunteer each Sunday to be a second adult. We will model Sunday School as a one room school house for children ages 4-12. Older teens are welcome to join the one room school house, but curriculum will be written for a younger age at this time. For questions regarding Sunday School please contact Associate Director of Discipleship, Starr Austin.

Christianity Is A Practice

Often when we think about faith or religion, we think about belief. For those of us who have been in leadership in religious organizations, we also think about the longing. But the true essence of Christianity is a practice. Jesus demonstrated in his life and teachings: the practice of helping others, the practice of being in community with people who are different from you, and the practice of gathering to break bread and pray. At its best, Christianity is a practice.

So how are we practicing if we want to be excellent soccer players or dancers? We don't *just show up* for the game or the recital! I know as a mom, practice takes a lot of time each week. If I want my child to be really good at football, I ensure they attend every practice and I get out in the backyard and throw the ball with them. Do we want our children to be lifelong Christians? And if so, how are we supporting the practice and where do we show up to "throw the ball"?

In Christianity, our role as Christians is not to win a trophy or bow when the stage lights go down. Our task is to love one another as we have been loved and to help bring about the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. This practice looks like small groups, Bible class, Mom groups, [MIDWEEK], worship attendance, and countless other opportunities to help our children connect to our Christian faith throughout the week. Christians are not made in the one hour we worship together on Sunday mornings. Rather, Sunday morning is our time to refill our cups at the well in worship.

Discipleship has created a seasonal newsletter, called Faith and Families that equips parents with prayers, discussion topics, and ideas to "throw the ball" with our kids, ensuring that the practice of Christianity begins to form the bedrock upon which they will build their lives.

Spencer and I would love to connect you to small groups, social opportunities, and other ways to support your family in growing your practice of faith. In November, I will be hosting a handful of *Coffee & Conversations* with families to determine how I can better support you. I look forward to seeing you at one of these coffee and conversation events!

Magee Campus will hold Family Worship Sunday, November 29th at the 10 am service as we hang the greens and celebrate the Advent season.



Prayer of Thanks
By Adrienne Warber
Dear God,
Thank you for family,
Thank you for friends,
Thank you for each moment I play
Thank you for my happy world
And I will thank you every day
Amen.



Coffee & Conversation with Starr

Families are invited to join Starr on the patio at Starbucks on Ina & Oracle (near Whole Foods) for coffee and conversation. Let's talk about what support your family needs or can offer to create deeper belonging and participation among our families.

10 am-11 am Saturday, 11/7
8:30 am-9:30 am Friday, 11/13
6 pm-7 pm Wednesday 11/11



on't forget ... all Sunday Concerts start at 3 pm! Don't forget ... all Sunda

St. Mark's United Methodist '26 - '27

SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES

Our 2026-2027 Concert Series is in full swing!

Be sure to get these dates on your calendar! There will be more information about the upcoming concert season next month.

November 8	Tucson Little Big Band	Classic Rock Re-Grooved
November 22	Carol Markstrom	Western American Folk

all Sunday Concerts start at 3 pm! Don't forget ...

Save the Date

Coffee with Pastor Ash

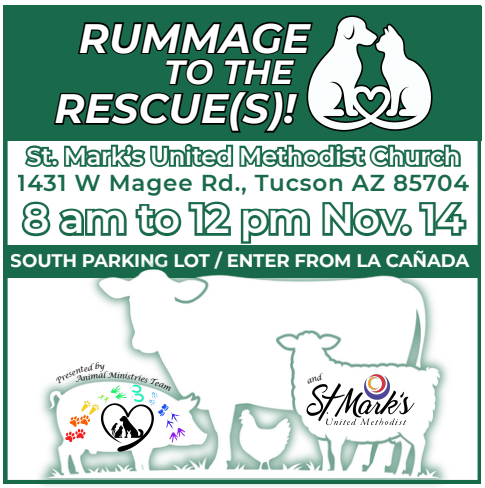
Join Ash at Starbucks - *9180 N Silverbell in Marana* for conversation, questions, or just to hang out. Hope to see you there! **Tuesdays at 8 am**.



Looking for a great way to meet people and move your body? Join the On Your Mark's Walking Group.

We will meet on **Friday, 11/13 and Monday, 11/30** at 7:45 am in the North parking lot of Magee campus (near the basketball/pickleball

Bring water and plan on two hours, for two miles. Contact: Cheri Schwartz



Saturday, **November 14** from 8 am - 12 pm, the Animal Ministry is hosting Rummage to the Rescue(s). This is a rummage sale in our south parking lot for a number of local animal rescues. This provides an opportunity for the rescues to join together for an event that attracts a large number of customers. Please come out and shop.



April DuBoce and **Alex Garrett** cordially invite you to our wedding nuptials on Sat Nov 21 at 2 pm in the Magee campus sanctuary. A reception to follow. Everyone is invited!

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 9 am. 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 Dove Mountain Brewing Co. Drink and think (and eat) while discussing life and faith. R.S.V.P. to Cindy Pastorius by noon on the meeting day!

Pickleball meets *7 am - 9 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 *4th Friday of each month* at Cracker Barrel at 8400 N Cracker Barrel Rd. in Marana from 8:30 to 10 am. They **DO NOT** meet in November and December. 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. Contact Kathy Howard.



United Women in Faith

All contact information can be found in your Breeze directory

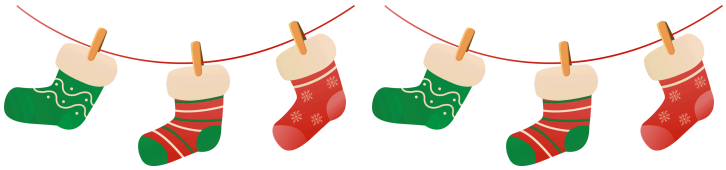
United Women in Faith unit meeting is ***Nov. 10 at 9:30 am in rooms 17/18***

United Women in Faith will meet at **10 am Tuesday, Nov. 10**, in Rooms 17/18. Fellowship and refreshments will begin at 9:30 am, followed by our World Thank Offering program.

Craft Circle will meet at 9 am Tuesdays, **Nov. 24** and **Dec. 1** in Rooms 17/18. The group is finalizing projects and pricing for the craft sale Dec. 5.

Grace Circle will meet at 9 am **Tuesday, Nov. 17,**, in Rooms 17/18. We will carpool to work at ReStore.

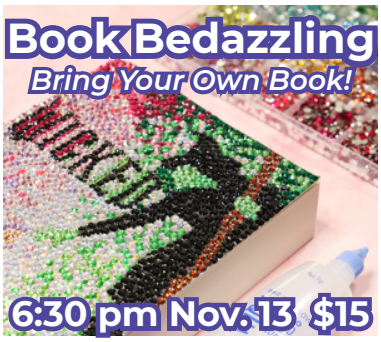
United Women in Faith will participate in the Masterpiece Festival by selling crafts in the Library and baked goods in Room 18. The proceeds support the women's mission efforts to help women, children and youth in need, so please support them.



Anniversary Committee



In 2027, St. Mark's Magee campus will celebrate *70 years of ministry*—and we want to celebrate well! We're looking for people to join (or lead!) an Anniversary Committee to help plan a great celebration on Sunday, May 2, 2027. Whether you love planning events, dreaming up creative ideas, digging into our history, decorating, organizing, or simply helping make things happen, there's a place for you. Help us celebrate where we've been and look forward to where God is leading us next! Your first step is to let us know how you will help - contact the office!



A Little Sparkle, A Lot of Joy

Time Magazine has highlighted the therapeutic benefits of decorating book covers with rhinestones. The repetitive motions can help soothe our nervous systems, support emotional regulation, and relieve stress. It's phone-free creative time that invites you to slow down, focus, and enjoy the simple pleasure of making something sparkle!

Bring your own book to bedazzle! Books with large, cartoon-like images and bold designs work best. Covers featuring realistic photographs aren't ideal for this project.

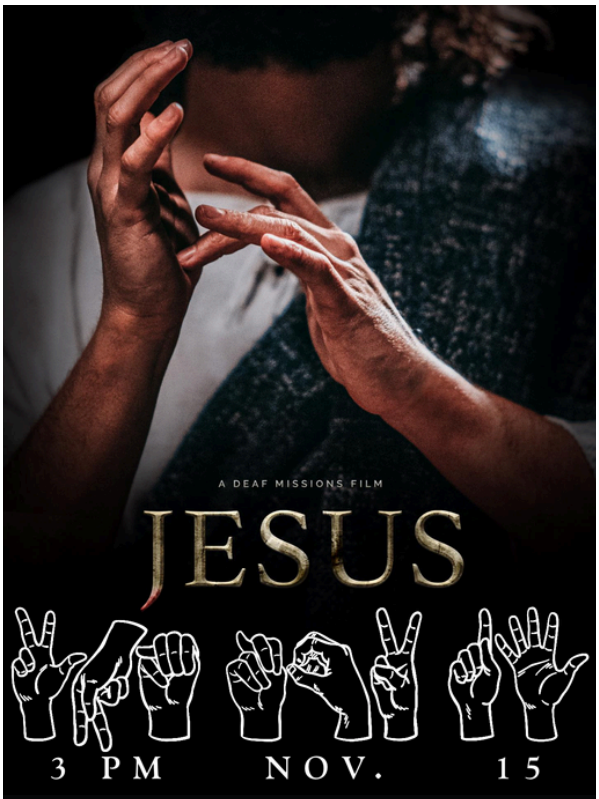
We'll provide the rhinestones, supplies, beverages and snacks. Feel free to bring a brown-bag dinner if you'd like something more substantial to eat.

Come ready to relax, get creative, and add a little bling to your bookshelf. No artistic experience necessary—just bring a book and a love of sparkle!

Pre-registration is required. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today: *info@umcstmarks.org*

Date: November 13, 2026 **Time:** 6:30 – 8 pm

Location: Rooms 17/18, Magee campus **Cost:** $15



Join us for a screening of this special film in ASL, with captions for the hearing. All are welcome!

Missions Ministry

Dear Pastor Richard, Pat Small, Lora Wineinger and everyone at St. Marks,

Thank you so much for your very generous donation to Tu Nidito. We so deeply appreciate Pastor Richard and Pat Small taking the time out of their day to come to our open house, tour the facilities, and present such a generous donation to us.
From all of us here at Tu Nidito, we thank you.



Board President Supriya Bakshi, Executive Director Liz McCusker, Pastor Richard Jones, Pat Small, and Program Director Amanda Marks.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

As Christians, many of us have benefited from the colonization, degradation, murder, and exploitation of the Native American people. We are called by God's unconditional grace and the teachings of Jesus Christ toward repair, reconciliation, and relationship. What does it mean to acknowledge Native American Heritage Month? We encourage you to educate yourselves about the peoples of this land, especially the Tohono O'odham people and the Pasqua Yacqui. We invite small groups to utilize devotionals and prayers sent out by Church and Society to reflect upon this population of God's people. We encourage you to seek ways to develop or deepen relationships. If you are seeking a way to support Native Americans and get involved in local issues, the Tohono O'odham Nation has been protesting the border wall to protect the saguaros, burial sites in that area, as well as archaeological sites. This issue is unfolding and impacts our Tohono O'odham neighbors directly. Prayers, protest, action, and calling your representatives to oppose this wall are all ways to support Native Peoples at this time.

Church & Society Committee

International Friends: A Friendship That Enriches Both of Us

By Lois Britton

Last year, International Friends matched me with Muslima, a graduate student from Uzbekistan, and we are now beginning our second school year together. Recently, someone asked me why I wanted to participate in International Friends. The answer is simple: I love meeting people from other countries when I travel, and I know how much being with a local can enrich the experience. What a wonderful opportunity to do that for someone else.

Muslima and I get together about once a month, depending on our schedules. Sometimes we go out for a meal, do some shopping, or take a walk. More recently, we joined other International Friends hosts and students for a guided tour of the Southern Arizona Heritage and Visitor Center in the old Pima County Courthouse.

Our friendship has also extended beyond our outings. Muslima and her roommates joined my extended family for Thanksgiving. The three roommates have also come to my house for grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup, followed by a baking session where we made some traditional Christmas cookies.

Our time together doesn't have to be complicated or expensive. What matters is the opportunity to spend time together, share our lives, and learn from one another. I always leave our visits feeling grateful that I've had the chance to connect with Muslima. This thoughtful young woman has enriched my life in ways I never expected.

St. Mark's late summer Blood Drive was a success. We had 17 people present with the Red Cross collecting 15 pints. This isn't our usual higher number but remember our winter visitors have not yet returned. I suspect all blood donor drives, donation centers, and numbers are down. So we helped supply blood in an environment of critical need. One pint can help 3 different people. 15x3=45 people! We had 2 first time donors, drop ins, and church members participate.

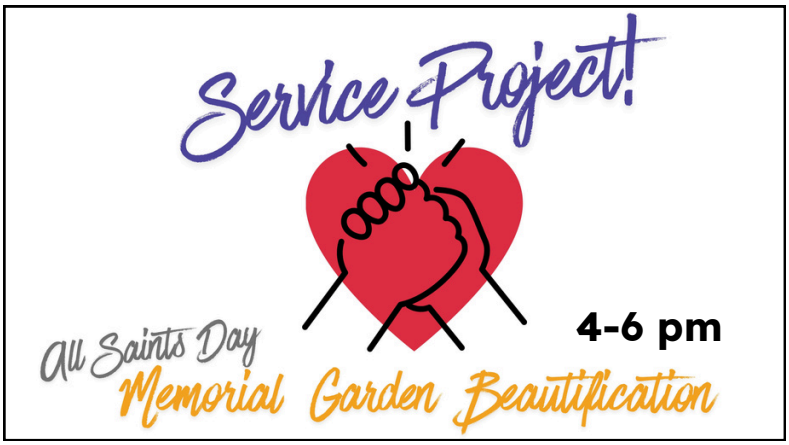


Our Red Cross Account Manager said we actually did better than she thought we would! Thank you to our pastors, staff, and blood donors for continuing to help. Regards, your Red Cross Blood Program Leader.

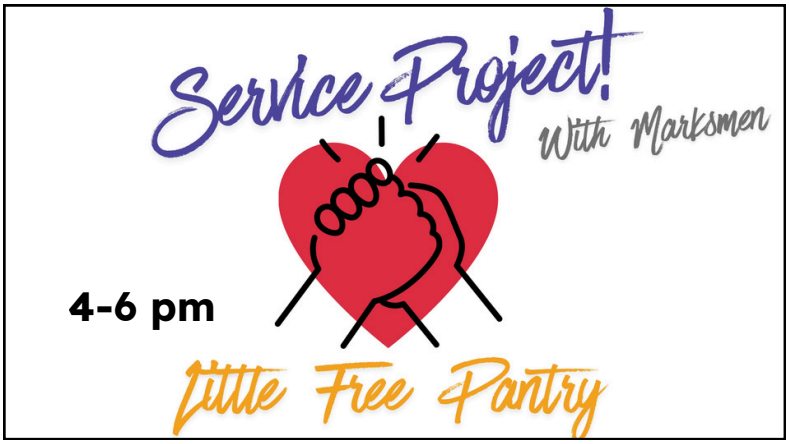


At St. Mark's Youth, we believe everyone has a seat at the table.
Youth Group is a place to belong and it happens on Sunday afternoons from 4-6pm in the Wesley House.
We're excited to meet you and want you to feel at home!

Sunday - November 1st



Sunday - November 8th



Sunday - November 22nd



Saturday - November 7th



Saturday - November 14th



Sunday - November 29th



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

YOUTH VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!

MEET HAROLD & SUSAN!

aka the cutest couple in the Wesley House!



I know you've seen Harold & Susan around St. Mark's! These lovebirds first met 50 years ago and are retired teachers that have always been involved with raising up the next generation. When not teaching our Youth these two are still serving others: Susan working with an organization that helps women go to college and Harold does just about everything at St. Mark's. Susan also enjoys crafting: glasswork and scrapbooks. Harold loves reading and listening to oldies music, he's also rooting for any team from Philadelphia! Susan's teacher skills were also useful when she won *Wheel of Fortune*! She so graciously included Harold on her winning trip to Iceland.

Susan's favorite Bible verse: Matthew 19:26 NIV
Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Harold couldn't pick just one, so be sure to ask him for one when you see him around the church!

YOUTH 2027 : JULY 11TH - 14TH

Texas Here We Come!

Are you interested in attending Youth 2027 with us? Sign up using the LinkTree to get more details!

Fun Fact: Jade is on the design team!



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!

A GENEROUS LIFE

November Sunday School



Generosity is so much more than giving money. It's an intentional commitment to living a life that uplifts others and serves the least of these. Jesus modeled this for us and there are countless stories in the Bible we can learn to be generous from. Join us as we embark on what it means to live a Generous Life!

DENIM & DIAMONDS 2026

Chili Cookoff Time!



It's our biggest fundraiser of the fall! We need LOTS of help on both Friday, Nov. 13th in the afternoon and on Saturday, Nov. 14th for the actual event. Students, parents, and youth leaders are all encouraged to sign up for a spot to serve.

Sign ups can be found using the QR code in the corner.

Want to enter a chili in the contest? Use the QR code or email spencer@umcstmarks.org

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT

Mark Your Calendars!

Dates have been announced and we are going to attend SSP June 28th - July 3rd 2027. Sign up today to get information on fundraisers and scholarships!



Addy R. - Nov. 4th
Abby J. - Nov. 16th
Rose S. - Nov. 24th

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!

Amphi-Partners Update (formerly Nash Neighbors)

It has been a busy summer as Nash Neighbors transitioned to Amphi-Partners with the closure of Nash Elementary School. The Amphi-Partners committee thanks our congregation for their continued generosity during this transition and continuing to combat food insecurity and support other basic needs.

Additionally, 5 dedicated classroom volunteers from Nash Elementary have followed their teachers to other schools in the Amphi and Marana school districts and were provided $200 each ($1000 in total) to purchase school supplies in their new schools. The Nash spirit continues!

St. Mark's Donated:

- 70 boxes of tissues
- 12 rolls of paper towels
- 6 containers of Clorox wipes
- 16 bags of cough drops
- 11 packages of feminine hygiene products
- 10 full size deodorants
- 3 boxes of new & gently used clothing
- 10 reusable plastic water bottles

Amphi-Partners Purchased:

- 25 JanSport backpacks
- 15 boys' T-shirts
- 10 boys' shorts
- 15 girls' T-shirts
- 8 pairs' girls leggings
- 20 reusable metal water bottles
- $1000 of gift cards for shoes & socks

How has food distribution changed? Every-other-Tuesday, volunteers meet the Amphi Middle social worker with the school van at Trader Joes to collect food as part of the ***Food Rescue*** partnership. The food is then taken to Amphi Middle School, unloaded, and staged for distribution.

We are also continuing to partner with the Southern Arizona Food Bank to supplement the ***Food Rescue*** efforts and deliver directly to Amphi Middle School every-other Wednesday.

Where is God calling you to get involved? Volunteer opportunities abound. Please reach out to me as this outreach ministry constantly needs new volunteers so "all may experience the love of Christ".

Carol Cecilia, Chairperson Amphi-Partners
carolcecilia@comcast.net
520-603-9527

LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?

These twice/month food collections and distributions are a great way to support St. Mark's continued partnership with the Amphitheater School District, which is now entering year 23+!

What about meeting the social worker at Kohls and helping kids pick out shoes and socks? An Amphi Partnership volunteer that recently did this was overwhelmed by the appreciation expressed by the students!



Recognizing & Interrupting Microaggressions - *Tuesday, **Nov 3rd**, 5 pm MST on Zoom*. This webinar will examine the intersections of racial and gender bias in professional spaces. Join Rev. Enger Muteteke for an educational and interactive webinar exploring microaggressions and how to interrupt them. Co-hosted by GCSRW and GCOR, United Methodist agencies committed to intersectional justice work. Register now for this live webinar here.

(*https://us.list-manage.com/LZFrGNoJ36G?e=85955d8d6b&c2id=c27f4d2c3ea0d19cd03d69993ed98c8enow*)

Praying for Members of the Military

We invite your prayers for these soldiers who have family members here at St. Mark's. If your loved one is missing from this list, please let us know!

Matthew Hughey, US Army
Allison Ledesma, US Navy
Teo Ledesma, US Navy
Nathan Lennarson, US Navy
Michael Lennarson, US Army
Jacob Szczygiel, US Navy

COMING SOON

Yes, 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 attend!

Advent Classes

A class based on the book, *All I Want for Christmas*, begins Thursday, **November 19** thru December 17 at 1:30 pm at the Country Club at La Cholla. Led by Linda Walker. Participants *DO NOT* need to buy the book.

A four-week Advent study, led by Marlyce Wright. Monday nights at 6:30 pm, beginning **November 30.** The book study title to be announced later.

ADVENT [MIDWEEK] GATHER CONNECT SERVE

[MIDWEEK] starts on December 2!

What is [MIDWEEK]?
[MIDWEEK] is an interactive Wednesday night gathering centered around an informal, unique worship experience and a community dinner.

Beginning **Wednesday, December 2**, service begins at 5 pm in the Magee campus sanctuary and dinner at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Studies and other activities will begin at 6:15 pm.

Decorating Party

Help us get St. Mark's ready for Advent on our Magee campus! On Saturday, **November 28** at 10:30 am, we'll put up the trees and prepare the decorations for our Hanging of the Greens service the next morning. Then, following worship on Sunday, November 29, we'll need more hands to finish decorating our worship space for the season. Come for one or both—many hands will make the work lighter (and more fun!).

Markaritas! *Planning Session & Christmas Tea*

Calling all women... the Markaritas is back! Markaritas is a group of women who gather to have fun, socialize, and support one another in developing friendships at church. In the past, we've done crafts, traveled to museums, held events at the Church Fellowship Hall, gone to restaurants, or met in one another homes.

We are hosting a planning meeting on **December 8** map out Jan-July for events, with another planning session to be held in August. Our planning meeting will schedule who will plan and advertise events among the group. Bring ideas for what you would like to do. The host for the month plans and hosts the event and works with Starr to ensure it is advertised. Join us December 8 for a Christmas tea and planning meeting! More information will be released closer to the event.

HOLIDAY DATES AT A GLANCE



November 25 Thanksgiving Eve worship at 6:30 pm

November 26 Thanksgiving Day Potluck Dinner at noon

November 28 Prep decorations for the Magee Campus!

November 29 Hanging of the Greens at Fifth Sunday worship

December 2 [MIDWEEK] begins

December 20 Christmas Cantata with St. Mark's Choirs

December 24 *Christmas Eve services!*
11 am Lessons and Carols with soup lunch afterwards (Magee)
4 pm Family-friendly service (Magee)
7 pm Contemporary Worship with Candles (Sanctuary)
7 pm Traditional service with Choirs and candles (Magee)
9 pm Traditional service with Choir, candles & communion (Magee)

Seventy Years of Faith, Generosity, and Possibility



Next year marks the 70th anniversary of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Tucson, a remarkable story made possible by generations of people who have supported this church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. As we celebrate this milestone, we also look ahead to the next chapter of St. Mark's story and the ministry we will share together.

Every week, at both our Magee and Sanctuary campuses, people gather to worship, learn, find fellowship, support one another through life's joys and sorrows, and serve our wider community. Our children's ministry is growing, our Missions team is reaching beyond our walls, and our Early Childhood Center welcomes children and families throughout the week. These ministries are the heart of St. Mark's, and they depend on the generosity of people like you.

Our annual Generosity Campaign begins this month, inviting each of us to prayerfully consider how we will support St. Mark's in the coming year. We recognize that rising costs affect everyone in Tucson, including our church. The good news is that we have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference together.

This year, we are focusing on three arenas of giving: prayerful, responsible, and joyful. Each is an important expression of our commitment to St. Mark's and its future. Whether you are making a pledge for the first time or continuing a longstanding commitment, every pledge helps us plan responsibly for the year ahead and sustain the ministries that touch so many lives.

For many families, increasing a weekly gift by just $5 may be possible. That small step, multiplied across our congregation, can make a significant difference. And if you have not pledged before, this is a wonderful year to begin!



Please complete and return your pledge card, or submit your pledge online. Watch the pledge thermometer in the narthex at Magee rise as our congregation joins together in this shared commitment.

As we approach 70 years of ministry, let's honor the faith and generosity of those who came before us by investing in the future. Can you participate? Will you help write the next chapter of St. Mark's story?

St. Mark's United Methodist

(520) 297-2062
Email: info@umcstmarks.org
Website: umcstmarks.org
YouTube: UMC St. Mark's AZ

Magee Campus
1431 W Magee Rd
Tucson, AZ 85704

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10 am
live streamed at 10 am
on our website and YouTube

Sanctuary Campus
8000 N Silverbell
Tucson, AZ 85743

Sunday Worship 10

Lead Pastor:
Rev. Lynn Bartlow
Sanctuary Campus Pastor:
Pastor Ash Dotson
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Richard Jones

WANTED At Sanctuary Campus

Sunday School Help

At St. Mark's, we make a promise: to surround the children with a community of love and help them grow in their faith. Here's a way to live out that promise! We need a second adult to assist our Sunday School teacher and be present with our children. You don't have to teach or prepare a lesson—***just show up and help***. Sign up for one Sunday or for a month of Sundays!

Logistical Help

We're looking for someone to help with Sunday morning set-up and tear-down. ***This is a paid position*** at minimum wage, beginning at 8 am on Sundays. You'll work alongside volunteers to help prepare the space for worship and put things away afterward.

Drummer Needed

Do you play drums—or know someone who does? We're looking for a drummer to join the Praise Team at our Sanctuary Campus and help lead worship on Sunday mornings. ***This is a paid position.***

If you're interested or know someone who might be a great fit, talk with Pastor Ash for more info!

PRAY

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 umcstmarks.breezechms.com/form/PrayerRequest

Gail Blevins
Marge Frazer
Becky Gooding
Lowell & Priscilla Hinkins
Brenda Hunter
Priscilla McInnis
Laurie and Jon Schladweiler

St. Mark's United Methodist
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. . . from our Sanctuary Campus Pastor

Have you ever heard people talking about your hometown when they have only passed through or know it secondhand? The details are off. The tone doesn't quite fit. You listen and quietly wonder what town they are describing, because it certainly isn't the one you know.

I sometimes imagine Jesus feeling something similar in the conversations recorded in John's Gospel. When Jesus declares that he is the light of the world, the Pharisees challenge him, questioning the validity of his testimony. Jesus responds, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one." — John 8:14–15 Jesus knows where he comes from. He knows the One whose love he embodies. Yet those challenging him seem unable to recognize that love standing right before them.

I wonder whether Jesus sometimes listened and thought, What God are they talking about? How has their understanding become so focused on judgment that they cannot recognize the presence of love and grace? That question reaches beyond this particular exchange. It invites us to examine our own understanding of God.

We, too, can become so certain of our religious ideas that we miss the God that Jesus reveals. We can speak as though we know our hometown while forgetting what makes it home.

Here at St. Mark's, we are learning to recognize that home together. We gather, connect, and serve so all may experience the love of Christ. Through worship, shared conversations, and acts of kindness, we help one another recognize the Kingdom of God taking shape among us. We learn to walk in the way of Jesus, a life shaped by love, grace, and compassion. Perhaps that is part of what it means to follow Jesus: learning to recognize our hometown in the love of God and helping others discover that they belong there, too. As Thanksgiving approaches, I am thankful for a God that simply wants to teach us how to love.

-Pastor Ash