

LOS TIEMPOS

April 2025

Our Purpose

Jesus Christ calls us to be a joyful community that celebrates God's love, transforms lives, and is a force for justice in the world.

We Welcome All

St. Mark's is a community of believers and seekers committed to being queer-affirming and anti-racist, reflecting the love and justice of Jesus Christ. We are a place where people of all ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities are welcomed, celebrated for their gifts, and invited to share in God's embrace.

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday | 9am–12pm

Office closed and staff observe Sabbath on Fridays



Find @StMarksAZ on social media!



CELEBRATION OF CONGREGATION

YOU WILL FIND IN THIS newsletter an article by Kevin Hainline regarding the completion of the Mission Study, along with a link to that document. I hope you take the time to read it. It is really well done, visually appealing (lots of beautiful photos), and received high praise from the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry.

While the Mission Study will serve as a useful tool for pastoral candidates to learn about St. Mark's, the process in creating it has been meaningful for the congregation. Time spent in self-reflection and self-assessment is useful—giving a congregation an opportunity to step back and take a fresh look at themselves, their history, their priorities, and their

goals. I believe St. Mark's has benefitted from this time of reflection.

Now that the Mission Study is approved by the Presbytery, St. Mark's can take the next step in the process toward calling a new pastor. The congregational nominating committee will begin to meet to formulate a list of names of church members to serve on a Pastor Nominating Committee. All nominees for the PNC will be elected by the congregation at a called meeting.

More details will be shared in the near future about the exact nature of the work of the PNC, as well as a way people in the congregation can suggest names for the



REV. TRACY DAUB (SHE/HER)
Transition Pastor
tracy@stmarksaz.org

PNC. In the meantime, we celebrate the important work of the Session, the Mission Study Team, and the congregation at large in this transition process!

Blessings,
Tracy



Cover photo:
The purple blossoms of a Texas Mountain Laurel

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday Service **April 17, 5:30PM**

Join us in the south courtyard outside the sanctuary for our Maundy Thursday service, complete with a meal and footwashing.

Good Friday Service **April 18, 5:30PM**

Join us in the sanctuary chapel for our Good Friday service, complete with candles, prayer, and reflection on suffering and loss.



Easter Sunday & Egg Hunt! **(April 20)**

Join us for our Easter Sunday service! Celebrate the resurrection with us, complete with brass musical accompaniment and an Easter Egg hunt for the children after worship.

STAYING SANE IN AN INSANE TIME

You shall not oppress the foreigner. The foreigner who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the foreigner as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.

Leviticus 19:33-34

April 6: Staying Sane in an Insane Time

A team of leaders: Paul Osborne, David Bracerros-Hamm, Beth Carroll, James Carroll, Molly McKasson, and Rob Selby will lead an adventure in story, song, poem, confession, and collaborative renewal and re-creation to help get recentered and engaged.

Questions? Contact Paul Osborne: paulosborne155@gmail.com

The Seven Cs of Resilience

How we model resilience for young people is far more important than what we say about it. Young people live up or down to the expectations that are set for them, and they need adults who love them unconditionally and hold them to high expectations.

Dr. Ken Ginsburg, MD a pediatrician specializing in adolescent medicine and a cofounder of the Center for Parent and Teen Communication, developed the 7Cs model of resilience to help kids and teens build the skills to be happier and more resilient.

Competence. This is the ability to know how to handle situations effectively. To build competence, individuals develop a set of skills to help them trust their judgments and make responsible choices.

Confidence. Ginsburg says that true self-confidence is rooted in competence. Individuals gain confidence by demonstrating competence in real-life situations.

Connection. Close ties to family, friends, and community provide a sense of security and belonging.

Character. Individuals need a fundamental sense of right and wrong to make responsible choices, contribute to society, and experience self-worth.

Contribution. Ginsburg says that having a sense of purpose is a powerful motivator. Contributing to your community reinforces positive reciprocal relationships.

Coping. When people learn to cope with stress effectively, they are better prepared to handle adversity and setbacks.

Control. Developing an understanding of internal control helps individuals act as problem-solvers instead of victims of circumstance. When individuals learn that they can control the outcomes of their decisions, they are more likely to view themselves as capable and confident.

The 7 Cs of resilience illustrate the interplay between personal strengths and outside resources, regardless of age.

CLEANLINESS ACTIVITIES



Sister José Women's Center

Assembling Hygiene Kits for Sister José Women's Center (April 13)

An ongoing need at Sister Jose's Women's Center is hygiene items. We will be assembling these hygiene kits in the Knox Room after worship on April 13, as part of a Lenten service project where we give to others who are most in need. Please take the time to have your cup of coffee, go to the Opportunities Table, and then gather in Knox (through the west side sanctuary doors). We will begin with a word of prayer and for instructions before assembling 50 kits.



St. Mark's Mt. Lemmon Cabin Work Day (April 19)

A Church Work Day is planned for Saturday, April 19.

Stay tuned for more info to come about transportation, what to bring, and work tasks.

FEASTS (MIND & BODY)

Second Sunday Supper will be in the **Second Street Parking Lot** this month, **April 13 at 5:00PM!** Burgers will be served as the main dish. Bring a side dish to share if you can. All are welcome!

2ND SUNDAY SUPPER
ON
2ND STREET!

St. Mark's Library Cart Updates

For the online Lenten series presented by John Dominic Crossan supported by St. Mark's Faith Formation Committee, there are two copies of his book about Paul on the library cart. We also ordered a few other titles to add to the library's collection. Finally, an anonymous person donated a book by Matthew Desmond, *Evicted*. Perhaps they had read Desmond's more recent title: *Poverty*, by America from the church collection and decided to give us the earlier book. Thanks to the donor!

Paul the Pharisee: A vision beyond the violence of civilization.

by: John Dominic Crossan. Polebridge Press, 2025.

Evicted: Poverty and property in the American city.

by: Matthew Desmond. Broadway Books, 2016.

James. by: Percival Everett. Doubleday, 2024

This is a retelling of The adventures of Huckleberry Finn from the point of view of the enslaved Jim.

Ban this book: A novel. by: Alan Gatz. Starscape , 2017.

For middle readers, 8-12. A fourth grader heads up a protest campaign to reinstate her favorite book (From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler) to her school library when it is removed from the shelves after a complaint from a parent.

Editorial note: This is a truly wonderful book about a precocious pre-teen taking charge of her life in a good way. And it won the Newbery Prize, for best children's literature in the year it was published.

FEASTS (MIND & BODY)

St. Mark's Library Cart Updates (continued)

American teenager: How trans kids are surviving hatred and finding joy in a turbulent era. by: Nico Lang. Harry N. Abrams, 2024.

Money, lies and God: Inside the movement to destroy American democracy. by: Katherine Stewart. Bloomsbury, 2025.

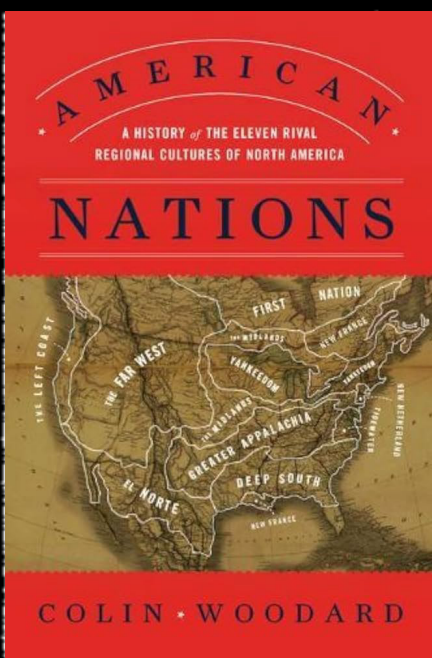
Finding grateful. by: Dianne White. Chronicle Books, 2024.
Picture book about just what the title says.



Pictured: Jim & Tricia Heller, Gwyn Roske, & Gerard at the Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Book Club Continues

The Book Club will continue to meet every other Thursday at 11am in Calvin. The dates in April will be the 3rd. and the 17th of April. Currently we are reading American Nations by Colin Woodard. This book gives a different and valuable way of understanding the many different lifestyles, political viewpoints, and cultural norms in this country and why these differences are, in large part, not dictated by state lines. You do not need the book to participate.



PC(USA) UPDATES

Synod of the Southwest

Two events of note that happened at the spring Synod (Arizona and New Mexico) meeting in Albuquerque. We voted to elect a Nominating Committee by November to find an Interim Stated Clerk / Executive. Conrad Rocha, the current Clerk will serve until the Interim is elected. The second event was the ordination of Kelsey Martin as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. Rev. Martin is currently employed as a Hospice Chaplain in Tucson. Rev. Martin will be preaching at St. Mark's on April 27.

- Irvin Richards, Synod Commissioner from Presbytery de Cristo.

A Week of Summer Camp in the Mountains of Greer, Arizona



Montlure 2025 will offer 4 sessions of weeklong overnight camps. Using your grade in school in Fall 2025 the offerings are as follows:

- 10th -12th grade: June 8-13
- 8th & 9th grade: June 16-21
- 6th - 8th grade: June 23 - 28
- 4th - 6th grade: July 7-11

Registration is open, go to [Montlure.org](https://www.Montlure.org). Spaces fill quickly so if you are interested, it is highly recommended that you visit the site today.

As in the past, St. Mark's can offer scholarships to help families offset the cost.

For more information, contact **Cathy Lurvey**:
deaconmindset@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES



*"They will beat their swords into plowshares."
Isaiah 2:4*

**Guns to Gardens
at Southside
Presbyterian Church**
317 West 23rd Street
Tucson AZ

Saturday, April 12, 2025, 9 am—12 noon

Voluntary Safe Surrender of Guns

Bring your unloaded, unwanted gun(s) in your vehicle's trunk. A member of the Guns to Gardens team will remove it to be cut apart on a chop saw. The metal from the gun will later be made into garden tools, art, or jewelry.

Sunday, April 13, 2025, 11:30 am—1:30 pm

Forging Demonstration in the Courtyard

Blacksmith Scotty Utz will demonstrate the forging of the gun metal into tools, art objects, and jewelry. Scotty is a member of the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America, founding member of RAWtools South, and Peace Smith #31 in the international blacksmith association Forging for Peace.

For more information, email gunstogardens@southsidepres.org

Sponsored by the Southside Presbyterian Church Committee Working for the Non-Violent and Peaceful Prevention of Gun Violence



SPRING FAIR & PLANT SALE

APRIL 12, 2025

Saturday 9-3 PM

3736 E 2ND STREET

*Fun for the whole family!
Information tables of City & County resources,
food, music, games!*

*Plant vendors, demonstrations,
artisan tables and more....*

iskashitaa.org



& the Family of Jim & Robbie Dick

*are proud to announce the 4th year of the
Jim and Robbie Dick Memorial Social Justice Scholarship
in memory of Jim and Robbie Dick's volunteer service
toward furthering equity, peace, social justice, human
rights, and cultural understanding.*

Three scholarships of \$5,000 will be awarded this year to Tucson area high school senior applicants who have been active volunteers in promoting these values, passions, and goals and who are going on to a university, community college, or trade school.

Eligibility:

Tucson area high school seniors who are/have been involved in some sort of community service project(s) related to social justice, equity and cultural understanding (such as volunteering with Iskashitaa, participating in or having a leadership role in school programs, city/county programs, church/civic organizations, etc).

Required Documentation

- Two letters of recommendation
- Official high school transcript
- Resume of volunteer work
- Essay (500-750 words):

**for more info
and application:**

www.iskashitaa.org/scholarships

**or scan
here**



Deadline 4/4/2025

ST. MARK'S MISSION STUDY

by: Kevin Hainline

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church is in the midst of an exciting search for a new installed pastor. Last year, we engaged the congregation in a series of dialogues to discuss what makes the church an important part of their life, and the life of the community, and we were so glad to get such crucial feedback. The Presbyterian Church, USA, as part of the process of searching for a new pastor, asks a church to create a "Mission Study Team" who will write a document that describes the congregation, our life, our goals, the way we work with our community, and our hopes for the future. The final document, the Mission Study, is designed both to lay out where we've been and who we are, with an eye towards the challenges we're tackling. This document will be presented to candidate pastors for St. Mark's as a way of letting them know what we represent as a church.

Pastor Tracy helped to put together a Mission Study team in September of 2024, with members Becky Cook, Beth Carroll, Tom Miller, and myself. Our goal was to use the results of our Discernment Meetings, as well as information about St. Mark's history, our community demographics, our partnerships, and the work being done to look forward to create the

final Mission Study document. We met bi-weekly throughout the fall and winter of 2024, where we discussed what we heard from the congregation, and where we want our church to focus our attention in the future. It was a challenging task, given the study and research that had to be done on St. Mark's history, its membership statistics, and the (changing!) makeup of both the Miramonte Neighborhood and the larger Tucson metropolitan area that St. Mark's serves. We sought quotes about the church from individual members, and photographs that helped demonstrate what happens in our weekly and monthly life.

After many, many months of effort, and multiple drafts, we were excited to finalize the 2025 Mission Study in February of this year, which we presented to the larger St. Mark's Presbyterian Session. They provided more comments and suggestions, which were folded into the final document which was presented to the Presbytery de Cristo. Excitingly, the document was enthusiastically approved by the Presbytery, and we are very happy to give you an opportunity to see the final version. You can download a pdf of the St. Mark's Presbyterian Mission Study at the following link:

[St. Mark's Mission Study](https://www.stmarksaz.org/meet/mission-study-2025/)

<https://www.stmarksaz.org/meet/mission-study-2025/>

We hope that you give the final document a read through, and we hope that you agree that it helps represent the important work being done by our congregation, and on our campus. St. Mark's has always worked to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly, and we hope this document reflects that. We are also thankful for the work done by the Good Futures team, which we folded into the final section about our hopes for the property and its buildings. We hope that our future pastor reads this and understands that St. Mark's is a church about doing God's work and living by Christ's example, which is a dire necessity in 2025. And thank you again to the full Mission Study team, who worked hard to bring this document to life.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

March 18, 2025 Session Highlights Margaret Wilkie, Clerk of Session

Clerk's Report and the Wider Church:

The Session remembered the life of Linda Ryan, a long-time member of St. Mark's, who passed away on February 20, 2025. She served as a dedicated Deacon for several terms. She and her husband Shaun were active members on a long-standing Nucleus Group. A joint memorial service for Linda and Shaun is planned by their son Kevin, for May 17, 2025.

The Session elected Kevin Hainline and Robin Staples as St. Mark's commissioners to the March 29, 2025, called Presbytery meeting at the Chandler Presbyterian Church in Chandler, Arizona (or via Zoom).

Pastor's Report:

The Rev. Tracy Daub provided a summary of all her activities and administrative meetings between February 18, 2025 and March 18, 2025.

The Presbytery approved St. Mark's Mission Statement with high praise – “an exemplary example.” Tracy and the session expressed their gratitude to the excellent work of the Mission Statement committee.

Ministry Teams Highlights/Action Items:

Administration (Charles Ambrose):

The Session approved the transfer of \$6000 for the final cost of the security cameras. All the security cameras are now in place.

The Session gave permission for Kaleidoscope (formerly Casa Alitas) to continue to use St. Mark's rooms for the collection and sorting of donated clothing and household items. The office will once again accept these items.

The Church Cabin Work Day will be on April 19, 2025.

Community and Global Engagement (Martha Osborne and Jan Prinz):

Sister Jose Women's Center: Hygiene Kits for the center were assembled after church on March 2 by assorted church attendees. We will do it again on April 13.

Eighteen people signed up to participate in cooking meals for the Center's Supper Club. The first dinner is being planned, stay tuned for more info.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 1| 1:00PM- 3:00PM

The weekly **Bridge group** meets in Calvin for games and conversation. All are welcome, beginners or experienced players.

Apr 1| 5:30PM- 6:30PM

Community & Global Engagement Committee. Office Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

Apr 2| 8:00AM -11:00AM

Join Iskashitaa for their monthly **drum circle**, as part of their weekly **Refugee Garden Arts Program**. The drum circle is held in the playground on the north side of the church. All are welcome

Apr 2| 8:30AM-9:30AM

Join us for **Midweek Manna**, a gathering for prayer and Bible study on the upcoming Sunday's preaching text, held in the office conference room (2nd Street side). All are welcome.

Apr 2| 6:00PM-8:00PM

Join the **Contemplative Community of Tucson** in Calvin Hall every Wednesday for prayer, a 20 minute moment of silence, and short biblical reflection.

Apr 3| 11:00AM-12:30PM

Book Club. Meet in Calvin Hall. Currently reading American nations by Colin Woodard.

Apr 6| After Worship

Staying Sane in Insane Times. Calvin Hall.

Apr 8| 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

Apr 8| 4:00PM- 5:00PM

Personnel Committee. Office Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

Apr 9| 8:30AM-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

Apr 9| 4:30PM- 5:30PM

Worship Committee. Office Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

Apr 10| 5:00PM- 6:00PM

Faith Formation Committee. Office conference room. All are welcome to attend.

Apr 12| 9:00AM-3:00PM

Iskashitaa Plant Sale. 2nd Street.

Apr 13| During Worship

Palm Sunday.

Apr 13| During Worship

Children's Church.

Apr 13| After Worship

Crossan Paul the Pharisee Discussion Group. Calvin Hall.

Apr 13| After Worship

Sister Jose Women's Shelter Hygiene Kits. Knox Room.

Apr 13| 5:00PM- 6:00PM

Second Sunday Supper. Join our Miramonte Neighborhood community in the 2nd Street parking lot for burgers. Bring a side dish if you wish. All are welcome, bring a friend!

Apr 14| 10:30AM- 12:00PM

The **Admin Committee** will meet in the office conference room this month. All are welcome to attend.

Apr 15| 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

Apr 15| 7:00PM- 9:00PM

St. Mark's Session. Office Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

Apr 16| 8:30AM- 9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

Apr 16| 6:00PM-8:00PM

Contemplative Community of Tucson.

Apr 17| 11:00AM-12:30PM

Book Club.

Apr 17| 5:30PM-6:30PM

Maundy Thursday. 3rd Street Courtyard.

Apr 18| 5:30PM-6:00PM

Good Friday. Sanctuary Chapel.

Apr 30| 8:00AM-12:00PM

Church Work Day.

Apr 20| During Worship

Easter Sunday.

Apr 21| ALL DAY

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED.

Apr 22| 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

Apr 23| 8:30AM- 9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

Apr 23| 6:00PM-8:00PM

Contemplative Community of Tucson.

Apr 27| During Worship

Children's Church.

Apr 27| After Worship

Big Coffee.

Apr 29| 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

Apr 30| 6:00PM-8:00PM

Contemplative Community of Tucson.

CONTACT INFO

Ministry Teams

Administration

Charles Ambrose – fragglorock2@msn.com

Congregational Care

Jim Cullum – jcullum@jcams.com

Lynne Davies – LCSQRD@cox.net

Faith Formation

Rachael Eggebeen – edsrachael@gmail.com

Community & Global Engagement

Martha Osborne – martha.r.osborne@gmail.com

Jan Prinz – janeth60@gmail.com

Worship

Gwyn Roske – groske1@gmail.com

Kevin Hainline – kevinhainline@gmail.com

Robin Staples – robin.staples@cox.net

Personnel – personnel@stmarksaz.org

Beth Carroll

Becky Cook

Clerk of Session

Margaret Wilkie – wilkie.m.l.tuc@gmail.com

Staff

Transition Pastor

Tracy Daub – tracy@stmarksaz.org

Organist/Pianist, Director of Handbells

Jared Aragón – jared@stmarksaz.org

Director of Music

David Bracerros-Hamm – david@stmarksaz.org

Church Administrator

Gianina Scavone – gianina@stmarksaz.org

Director of Communications

Elaina Richards – elaina@stmarksaz.org

Facilities Coordinator

Michael Robinson – michael@stmarksaz.org





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Sunday Schedule

In-Person Worship: 10:30am

Livestream: www.YouTube.com/StMarksAZ

Find Us Online!

www.stmarksaz.org

[Facebook.com/StMarksAZ](https://www.facebook.com/StMarksAZ)

[Instagram.com/StMarksAZ](https://www.instagram.com/StMarksAZ)

[Twitter.com/StMarksAZ](https://twitter.com/StMarksAZ)