



April 2024

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!



NEW LIFE

RESURRECTION and new life are the focus not only on Easter Sunday, but for the weeks between Easter and Pentecost—a season we call Eastertide. So, it seems especially appropriate that during this season, we at St. Mark's will also focus on new directions in the life of our congregation.

I share with you two upcoming activities oriented toward new directions:

1. This winter, the Session completed two Visioning Workshops where the members nurtured their imaginations and contemplated the future of our congregation and its ministries. Now the Session plans to bring those discussions to the wider congregation. Plans are being developed to hold a variety of "listening" occasions with members of the congregation. Stay tuned for further details about where

and when you can join in these important occasions for sharing and imagining the future of St. Mark's.

2. The Good Futures Accelerator is an online program designed to assist congregations in exploring how to make greater use of their buildings and property in ways that are consistent with their mission and faith. St. Mark's Session has approved our participation in this program, and a small group of church members will embark on this program in the upcoming months. As the group undertakes this exploration, updates and insights will be shared with the congregation.

Please keep your church leaders in prayer as they undertake these explorations.

I also would add an observation of my own. It is not unusual for churches going through a comprehensive



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

examination about their future to experience some levels of anxiety. Yet, for the most part, I have discovered St. Mark's members are not so much anxious as they are excited and eager to explore fresh ways St. Mark's can be engaged in vibrant and vital ministries. This is so refreshing! May we give ourselves over to the transforming and resurrecting work of God!

Blessings,

Tracy

FAITH FORMATION

LUNCH & LEARN: EVERYTHING GOOD ABOUT GOD IS TRUE



“Everything Good about God is True.” Do you believe this? Join a “Lunch and Learn” series to study an uplifting, interactive new book by former PCUSA Moderator, Bruce Reyes-Chow. There will be four sessions after worship on the Sundays in April. **Rev. Reyes-Chow will preach at St. Mark’s on May 5 and lead a discussion over lunch.**

Copies of the book have been ordered, but they won’t be available until Tuesday, April 2. **If you’ve ordered a copy, you can pick it up Wednesday or Thursday morning in the church office.** Books will be available to pick up at the first class on April 7, and for sale at \$10 a copy. We will discuss section one of the book on April 7, but you do not need to read it before participating.

If you have questions, please contact Sylvia Thorson-Smith by email (sylviats@cox.net) or phone (520-820-1544).

COMMUNITY EVENTS



→ The planter outside the Sanctuary all re-planted for spring! Thanks to the Garden Brigade for helping spruce up our campus.



IT'S FOOD WASTE PREVENTION WEEK... COME CELEBRATE SCRAPS

SATURDAY April 6th 1:00-4:00

Food Drive benefitting Casa Maria Soup Kitchen (bring 4 non-perishable food items and get \$1.00 off a beer)

Cooking demos
Raffle
Games
Educational information

MotoSonora Brewing Company
1015 S. Park Avenue
Tucson



Spring Plant Sale

Iskashitaa Garden
Saturday April 13, 2024
9am-1pm
3736 E 2nd Street

Houseplants
Cacti & landscaping Plants
Craft Vendors
Farmer Market Citrus Sale
Rummage Sale

There will be something for everyone!
www.iskashitaa.org

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS KERSTIN MILLER, CLERK OF SESSION

Session met on **March 19, 2024** for its monthly stated meeting.

Clerk's Report and the Wider Church:

- Remembering the Life of Frank Frisina: Elders lifted up the life of Frank Frisina, member of St. Mark's since 2015, and emphasized his ever-calming presence, his enthusiasm, and passion for social justice issues. A celebration of his life is planned for April 6, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
- St. Mark's currently has **165 members** and **64 friends**.
- Session elected Martha Osborne and Beth Carroll as St. Mark's commissioners to the April 20, 2024, called Presbytery meeting at Valley Presbyterian Church in Green Valley.

Congregation Visioning Event:

- Session is planning a visioning event with the entire congregation to continue the discussion that Elders and the Rev. Tracy Daub engaged in during two visioning workshops. Stay tuned for more information to come next month!

Good Futures Accelerator Seminar:

- Session voted to support and purchase the *Good Futures Accelerator* program, an online program on how to use church property in a way that is faithful to our faith. Several Elders will participate in this months-long program.

Funding Cuts to Casa Alitas and appeals to St. Mark's for help:

- The Rev. Tracy Daub reported that she has been getting requests for St. Mark's to help with the migrant crisis as Casa Alitas is facing closure with federal funding expiring at the end of March. Session unanimously decided that at this time St. Mark's does not have the capacity to host asylum seekers.
- Elders were encouraged to find concrete ways of getting involved, such as volunteering at Casa Alitas and writing emails to elected officials.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

MINISTRY TEAMS HIGHLIGHTS/ACTION ITEMS

Administration (Jeff Parrish and Charles Ambrose):

- Session received the annual reports of the Financial Review from Matthew V. Frey, CPA for 2022 and 2023.
- All church **Mt. Lemmon Cabin Cleanup Day** is scheduled for **April 13**. For more information, please talk to Charles Ambrose.
- Jeff will lead a safety Narcan and automated external defibrillator (AED) training on **April 28** after worship.

Congregational Care (Becky Cook, Jim Cullum, Beth Carroll):

- Among others, there are plans for a congregational/deacon training on how to make a pastoral visit sometime in April or May. Stay tuned for more info.

Worship (Gwyn Roske and Kevin Hainline):

- Plans for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday were reviewed.

Faith Formation (Sylvia Thorson-Smith and Rachael Eggebeen):

- Sylvia encouraged everyone to read the book *Everything Good about God Is True: Choosing Faith* by the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, who will preach at St. Mark's on May 5 and will lead a *Lunch and Learn discussion* following worship.

Community and Global Engagement (Martha Osborne and Dexter Mitchell):

- Martha thanked everyone involved in the writing of about 100 postcards to elected officials on March 17.

Personnel (Beth Carroll):

- References are currently checked for one candidate for the music director position.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 2 | 1:00PM- 3:00PM

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

APR 3 | 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 3 | 9:30AM- 10:30AM

Reconnecting with our Connectedness. Meet in the north courtyard (through the gate by the church office) to reconnect with our connectedness.

APR 4 | 11:00AM- 12:30PM

Book Club: Low Anthropology. Join Pat Williams in Calvin Hall for a book discussion, to listen, share, or just be in community!

APR 7 | DURING WORSHIP

Children's Church. All youth are invited to join during worship for a children's story and craft.

APR 7 | AFTER WORSHIP

Casa Alitas Snack Pack Making in the Knox Room. Join us to help put together bags of snacks for migrants supported by Casa Alitas.

APR 7 | AFTER WORSHIP

Book Discussion: Everything Good About God is True. Calvin Hall.

APR 9 | 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

APR 10 | 8:30AM- 9:30AM

Midweek Manna

APR 10 | 9:30AM- 10:30AM

Reconnecting with our Connectedness.

APR 13 | 8:00AM

Mt. Lemmon Cabin Clean Up. Meet up at the McDonalds on Tanque Verde & Catalina Highway.

APR 14 | AFTER WORSHIP

Book Discussion: Everything Good About God is True.

APR 14 | 5:00PM

Second Sunday Supper on Second. Join us in the North Parking lot on Second Street for dinner (vegan/ vegetarian option available), conversation, and community!

APR 16 | 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

APR 17 | 8:30AM- 9:30AM

Midweek Manna

APR 17 | 9:30AM- 10:30AM

Reconnecting with our Connectedness.

APR 18 | 11:00AM- 12:30PM

Book Club: Low Anthropology. St. Mark's Office-Conference room.

APR 21 | DURING WORSHIP

Children's Church.

APR 21 | AFTER WORSHIP

Book Discussion: Everything Good About God is True.

APR 23 | 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

APR 24 | 8:30AM-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

APR 24 | 9:30AM - 10:30AM

Reconnecting with our Connectedness.

APR 28 | AFTER WORSHIP

Narcan/AED Training. Join us for a training on how to administer Narcan for opioid overdose in the Knox Room.

APR 28 | AFTER WORSHIP

Book Discussion: Everything Good About God is True.

APR 30 | 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

MAY 1 | 8:30AM-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

MAY 1 | 9:30AM - 10:30AM

Reconnecting with our Connectedness.

CONTACT INFO

MINISTRY TEAMS

ADMINISTRATION

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CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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FAITH FORMATION

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STAFF

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OUR PURPOSE

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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

Instagram.com/StMarksAZ

Twitter.com/StMarksAZ