

LOS TIEMPOS



May 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!



GOOD FUTURES

AS THE TREES and cacti bloom around us this spring, I share with you a new thing emerging here at St. Mark's. With the Session's blessing and encouragement, a group of six congregation members have been assembled to explore how to make faithful use of under-utilized and unused parts of St. Mark's property. Using a nationally based curriculum, this newly formed group, called "**The Good Futures Team**," will meet monthly for the next 7-12 months.

As many in our congregation will know, St. Mark's has an abundance of property resources: a mostly unused building (Hudler Hall), two large parking lots, empty classrooms,

and undeveloped property adjacent to our buildings. The desire is to discover how to use these resources in ways that are consistent with our calling to be the healing and hope-filled presence of Christ. And so, this group will work through the curriculum to explore the needs of our community, the passion as well as capacity of our congregation, and how to connect with community partners in furthering a common goal.

As you might imagine, this kind of exploration takes time. The group plans to keep the congregation posted on its progress so stay tuned for ongoing updates. And please keep



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

these individuals in your prayers as they offer their time, wisdom, and skills and as they seek God's guidance for the ministry and mission of St. Mark's: Irvin Richards, Trianna Oglivie, Martha Osborne, Mike Block, Rachael Eggebeen, Tom Miller.

Blessings!

Tracy

FAITH FORMATION

A Weekend w/ Bruce Reyes-Chow

@ St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
(3809 E. 3rd St.)

Author of the new book
"Everything Good about
God Is True"



MAY 4:

Update on Bearing Witness in Palestine

3:00PM, Geneva Hall

Enter by the Church Office on 2nd Street, near 3736 E. 2nd St.

MAY 5:

Guest Sermon & Luncheon
Book Discussion

10:30AM: Worship Service

11:30AM: Lunch

→ with catering by El Molinito!



COMMUNITY PARTNER FEATURE: SISTER JOSÉ

PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS DELIVERED TO SISTER JOSÉ'S

Sister José Women's Center is a Tucson-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that exists to aid and transform the lives of women who are unhoused.

The mission of the Sister José Women's Center is the care and nurture of women experiencing homelessness in a welcoming and safe environment.

The vision of the Center is to provide a community where every woman experiencing homelessness has a safe harbor and a path to a sustainable existence.

The services provided by the Center include meals, clothing, showers, laundry facilities, a safe place as it is a low barrier center without requirements, referrals, or fees. There are also case navigators who provide the Center's guests with mentorship and the necessary resources to begin their transition to stable housing. Sister José has both a day program and an overnight program.

For more information see <https://sisterjose.org>.

The Center was most appreciative of the personal hygiene products that St Mark's provided through our February collection of such products. Thank you St Mark's for your generosity in helping the homeless women of Tucson.



→ Jan Prinz with Sister José staff and volunteers.

COMMUNITY PARTNER FEATURE: SISTER JOSÉ

During Women’s History month in March, we continued our efforts by collecting women’s personal hygiene products —Tampax, sanitary napkins, and cleansing wipes. A “carload” of these donations was delivered after Easter. During this delivery, we met Jean Fedigan who founded and named the Women’s Center in honor of her mentor and friend Sister José, a Franciscan nun who lived and served in Tucson for many years. At the end of our tour of the Center, Jean encouraged us to visit again and bring others from St. Mark’s which we hope to do soon!

Video on more of the Women’s Center’s work: [Arizona Illustrated-Sister José](#)



→ Jan Prinz, Chris Maddux, Jean Fedigan (Founder and Chief Mission Officer), and Martha Osborne

(Photographer and helper extraordinaire Lou Prinz!)

DISCERNMENT SESSIONS

LOOKING TOGETHER AT THE FUTURE OF ST. MARK'S

Kevin Hainline, on behalf of the St. Mark's Session

In the next year, the St. Mark's Session is taking on the important process of selecting a Pastor Nominating Committee to begin the search for an installed pastor for our church. The first steps in this process involve us exploring our identity as a church and our plans for the future.

This is not something that Session can do alone, and will require us to understand the thoughts and prayers of the whole congregation. Over the next few months, members of the Session will be joining with the congregation to help us understand our calling here at St. Mark's. We invite you to one of these special discernment sessions to solicit your opinions, hopes, and dreams for the church.

During May and into June, we will have **four meeting times** set aside for you to join to discuss St. Mark's. Two of these sessions will take place after worship service, and two will be in the evening.

4 Discernment Sessions

1. **Wednesday, May 15**
5:00-6:00PM
2. **Thursday, May 23**
5:00-6:00PM
3. **Sunday, May 26**
12:00-1:00PM
4. **Sunday, June 2**
12:00-1:00PM



→ Vic & Janet Daub discerning the worship guide by smart phone light

DISCERNMENT SESSIONS

In each of these meetings, designated Session members will guide groups through questions about our identity as a Church, the work of St. Mark's, and our plans for the future, inviting participants to provide their opinions. The Session has identified key areas that we believe are fundamental to St. Mark's, and there will be discussions about how the congregation feels called in those areas.

We'll discuss our partnerships, our role as a social justice church, our underutilized campus, our ministry, and our role in your life. God speaks to each and every one of us here at St. Mark's, and we'd love it if you could join us to share what you hear them saying to you.

With all this knowledge, we can start forming the documents we need to put together as part of the discernment process. Eventually, an elected Pastor Nominating Committee will use the knowledge gained in these sessions to help identify candidates for our next permanent pastor. But more importantly, this information will help the Session, who will work with both our interim pastor, and the next installed pastor, to move St. Mark's forward into the future.



We need your input at one of these meetings. **Please sign up after worship on any of the next few Sundays, or by contacting the church office.** You only need to go to one meeting, and we hope to hear from a broad group of members, both those who have been attending since they were young and those who are newer to St. Mark's. All are welcome because the future of St. Mark's includes everyone. Even you, reading this right now! Get your calendar, and mark one of these meetings. We're so excited to see you all there!

OPPORTUNITIES

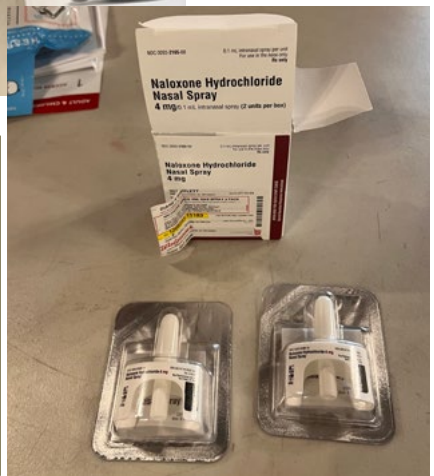


Join us at the 2nd Street parking lot at **5PM on Sunday, May 12** for Second Sunday Supper! Burgers will be served. Feel free to bring a side if you would like. All are welcome, invite a friend!



→ AED Device in church narthex

AED/Narcan training in April helped church members become familiar with the processes for emergency first aid



→ Narcan/Naloxone, the treatment for opioid overdose

Come see Art Almquist's final play at Tucson High, "The Dining Room"! Set in the dining room of a typical well-to-do household, a mosaic of eighteen different stories in different time periods (dramatic and comedic) connected by the family dining room.

THE DINING ROOM features Tucson High's Advanced Drama seniors and juniors, most of whom started high school online. For most of them, this is their last performance before they graduate.

Performances are May 9, 10, and 11 at 6:30 in the Tucson High Little Theatre. Purchase tickets online at <https://our.show/thmsdiningroom>

Questions?

Write Art at Arthur.almquist@tusd1.org



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS RICHARD GREY, RECORDING SECRETARY

Session met on **April 16, 2024** for its monthly stated meeting.

Church Transition: Planning is in place for a set of four congregational visioning events. Various dates in May and June are set in order to give everyone a chance to attend at least one of the gatherings. Further details can be found on **Page 6**.

At the request of the group Apache Stronghold, and after due deliberation, Session agreed to the church signing onto an amicus brief for an appeal of a 9th Circuit Court ruling against Apache Stronghold in their case to protect Oak Flat from Resolution Copper, which plans mining activity in the Oak Flat area.

Administration (Jeff Parrish and Charles Ambrose):

- Session approved a new lease agreement for the garden area on the west side of the church. The committee will move forward with Iskashitaa Refugee Network to get it signed.

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

- The committee is gearing up for Bruce Reyes-Chow's visit to Tucson in May. Bruce will speak about his work on Israel-Palestine at an event at church on May 4 at 3:00 p.m. Bruce will preach at St. Mark's on Sunday May 5.

Community & Global Engagement (Martha Osborne and Dexter Mitchell)

- With the help of young people in the church, the committee plans to reorganize the food pantry. The committee is partnering with Casa Maria Soup Kitchen, which are happy to receive items that are nearing their best-if-used-by dates since they feed people every day.

Personnel (Beth Carroll):

- Interviewing is concluded and work continues to bring in a new person to fill the Music Director position. Good news is hoped for soon. Keenan Dolan's last Sunday will be May 19, and there will be a celebration of his time at St. Mark's at church on that day, as well as guest musician Kenny Kriha's graduation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2| 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!

MAY 4| 3:00PM- 5:00PM

Bearing Witness in Palestine. Join us in Geneva Hall for a discussion with Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow about his time in Palestine

MAY 5| DURING WORSHIP

Guest Preacher, Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow.

MAY 5| DURING WORSHIP

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

MAY 5| 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.

MAY 5| AFTER WORSHIP

Lunch & Learn with Bruce Reyes-Chow in Geneva Hall. Join us to discuss Bruce's book "Everything Good About God is True" over lunch.

MAY 7| 1:00PM- 3:00PM

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

MAY 8| 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!

MAY 12| AFTER WORSHIP

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

MAY 12| 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!

MAY 14| 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

MAY 15| 8:30AM-9:30AM

Midweek Manna

MAY 15| 5:00PM-6:00PM

Discernment Session. Join us for discussion of goals for the future of St. Mark's.

MAY 16| 11:00AM- 12:30PM

Book Club: Low Anthropology.

MAY 19| DURING WORSHIP

Children's Church.

MAY 21| 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

MAY 22| 8:30AM- 9:30AM

Midweek Manna

MAY 23| 5:00PM-6:00PM

Discernment Session.

MAY 26| 12:00PM-1:00PM

Discernment Session.

MAY 28| 1:00PM-3:00PM

Bridge Group.

MAY 29| 8:30AM-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

MAY 26| AFTER WORSHIP

Join us for **Big Coffee** in the courtyard after worship for snacks, socialization, and of course, coffee!

MAY 26| 12:00PM-1:00PM

Discernment Session.



→ Berry Roberts and Gwyn Roske complimenting each other in red and turquoise

CONTACT INFO

MINISTRY TEAMS

ADMINISTRATION

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WE WELCOME ALL

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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