

LOS TIEMPOS



July 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!



DISCOVER JOY

“IT FELT JOYFUL.”

This was the assessment of one of our St. Mark’s members following her participation in a recent protest gathering. In these first six months of 2025, many of us have become accustomed to feeling dread, to feeling discouraged, to feeling fearful, to feeling angry. But feeling “joyful” has seemed rather in short supply these past months.

Much of the joy felt that day was related to the communal nature of the gathering.

People felt a shared purpose in standing up and voicing a commitment to justice, compassion, kindness, and a respect for humanity and the planet. Alone, we can feel overwhelmed by the forces of society and the challenges of our personal lives. But when we come together, we gain strength and discover joy — even when confronting significant hardships. We witness this regularly in our congregational life together, where we unite around important beliefs



Rev. Tracy Daub (she/her)
Transition Pastor
tracy@stmarksaz.org

and values which may not always be popular in the eyes of society: values like love, compassion, mercy, peace, and generosity. And in doing so, we just might also discover joy.

Blessings,

Tracy

Cover photo:

A toad enjoying monsoon rain
(or, the mist from a hose)

SUMMER READING

The St. Mark's church library recently received a very generous cash donation from a church member who wishes to remain anonymous. 7 of the titles below were purchased with the donation, and we also received books from several other donors. Many thanks to you donors!

The two books on grief were suggested by the moderators of the grief workshop held recently at St. Mark's.

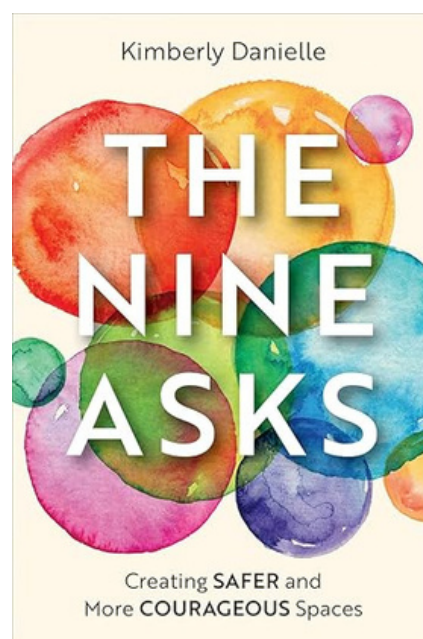
Women Mystics in Medieval Europe. by:
Emilie Zum Brunn and Georgette Epiney-Burgard.

Paragon House, 1989. Spirituality

How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith. by: Mariann Edgar Budde.

Avery, 2023. Christianity

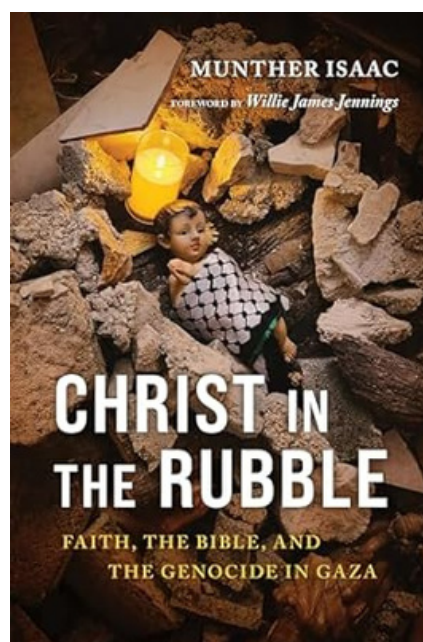
The Nine Asks: Creating Safer and More Courageous Spaces. by: Kimberly Danielle.
Westminster John Knox Press, 2025. Self-Help



The 7 Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism: A Call to Action. by: Carter Heyward.
Rowman and Littlefield, 2022. Social Issues

Christ in the Rubble: Faith, the Bible and the Genocide in Gaza. by: Munther Isaac.
Wm. B Eerdmans, 2025. Religion

Somehow: Thoughts on Love. by: Anne Lamott.
Riverhead Books, 2024. Self-Help



SUMMER READING

The Grieving Body: How the Stress of Loss Can Be An Opportunity For Healing. by: Mary-Frances

O'Connor.

HarperOne, 2025. Death and Dying

The Grieving Brain: The Surprising Science of How We Learn From Death and Loss. by: Mary Frances

O'Connor.

HarperOne, 2022. Death and Dying

Against the American Grain: A Borderlands History of Resistance. by: Gary Paul Nabhan.

High Road Books, 2024. Border Issues

Rivermouth: A Chronicle of Language, Faith and Migration. by: Alejandra Oliva.

Astra House, 2023. Border Issues

Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus. by: Elaine Pagels.

Doubleday, 2025. Jesus

The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage. by: Richard Rohr.

Convergent, 2025. Spirituality

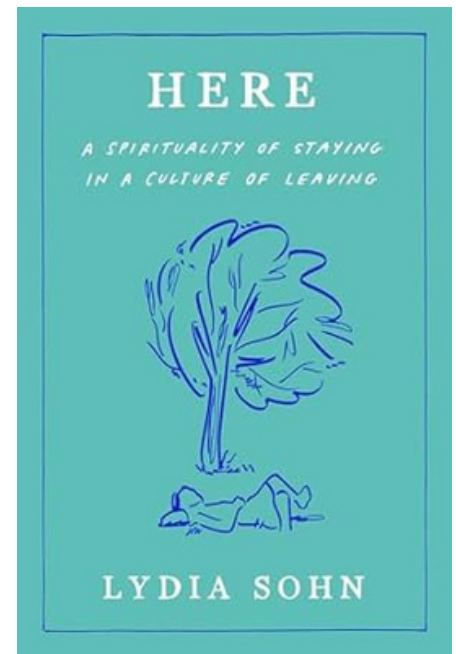
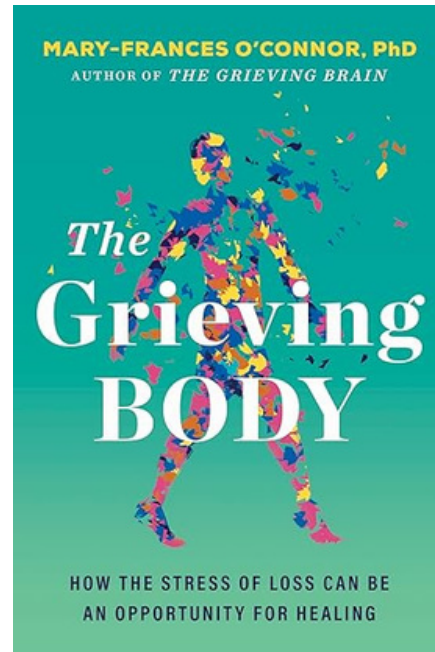
Here: A Spirituality of Staying in a Culture of Leaving. by: Lydia Sohn.

Convergent, 2025. Spirituality

Reckoning with History: Settler Colonialism, Slavery and the Making of American Christianity.

by: William Yoo.

WJK Press, 2025. Christianity



The Book Club is taking a **summer recess until Thursday, August 21.** We will be starting a new book then. If you want to join the club, or have a book you would like to read and discuss, contact Pat Williams (purpleidahocat@yahoo.com), if interested.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION



Items Needed for Donation:

- ~ cooking oil
- ~ cornmeal
- ~ dish soap
- ~ laundry soap
- ~ shampoo

Please place your donations
In the red wagon In the
narthex on Sundays,
or bring to the church office
during open hours
(M-Th 9AM-12PM)

Thank you to all who have
donated, and for your
continued support of
refugees!



Stephanie Mitchell
TIHAN Faith Community Liaison for St. Mark's
520.271.4990

thundermitchell@gmail.com

The Power of Us

Civic Engagement on HIV and Related Issues

Monday, July 14, 2025 * 5:30-7:00pm

Midtown Tucson location will be provided upon receiving your RSVP.

RSVP required to scott@tihan.org

A non-partisan 90-minute session to learn about ways you might engage,
on HIV funding issues and other concerns

Sponsored by

Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN)
in collaboration with nonprofits and faith communities, including
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation * El Rio Health * Fluxx Productions *
Rabbi Joseph H. Gumbiner Community Action Project of the Tucson Jewish
Museum & Holocaust Center * Pima County Health Department * Reveille
Men's Chorus * Southern Arizona Senior Pride * YWCA of Southern Arizona
* Lutheran Church of the Foothills * Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church *
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church * Southside Presbyterian Church *
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church



We [Jewish Voices for Peace] are continuing the fight to stop the
genocide, running strategic divestment campaigns, growing a united
front that has Palestine in the center, and working to fully make
obvious the lie that mass murder of Palestinians and crackdowns
on free speech have any relationship to keeping Jews safe.

If you or someone you know has been looking for a political home for Jews on the left in
this perilous moment; if you or someone you know has been wanting a Jewish community
with justice at the center; if you or someone you know has been looking to turn anger and
grief into meaningful, strategic action, support and follow the work of [Jewish Voices for
Peace](https://www.jewishvoicesforpeace.org)

A LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP

Much of what we do in life is based on what is most important on our personal list of priorities. If asked what is important in one's life, many would answer: work or career, family, personal relationships, self-fulfillment/growth, making others happy, service to others, etc. Many of these things are certainly valid and worthwhile pursuits as a mark of personal priorities. But as a child of God, have you considered pursuing a lifestyle of worship?

The Oxford English Dictionary defines lifestyle as “a style or way of living (associated with an individual person, a society, etc.); especially the characteristic manner in which a person lives (or chooses to live) his or her life.”

In application, would others characterize your lifestyle as a worshiper of God? I don't mean walking around everywhere sounding like a “holy roller” or religious fanatic.

Ephesians 5:15-20 instructs us to “be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God.” Did you notice the manifestation of an attitude of worship occurring “in your heart” and toward God? No outward boisterous or demonstrative performance necessary—just a continual conscientiousness of gratitude and inner rejoicing (with song) toward God.

Quite simple, but as loaded with complications as Jesus' command to love thy neighbor. The dictionary definition makes the term lifestyle synonymous with a “way of living”. Everyone that has experienced establishing a positive way of life knows that it involves a lot of energy



David Bracer-Hamm (he/him)
Music Director
david@stmarksaz.org

and discipline. Allow me to share (or confess) my own personal struggles with maintaining a lifestyle of worship.

As a long standing child of God that grew up in the church, attended a Bible college and studied the subject of Christian worship extensively, I am steeped and comfortable with what it means to be a worshiper of God...until I get into my vehicle and start driving with other drivers on public roadways. This appears to intensify when I have limited driving time or am even late for a destination.

A LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP

When I encounter a slow driver in the left lane, or one that fails to use signal lights, or even someone not driving safely (hear the righteous justification there?), I consequently lose my aptitude for worship and instead let loose inner expletives that could almost make a sailor blush.

If there were a Road Rage Anonymous support group, I would need to attend it regularly as it is a negative characteristic that I have struggled with and failed to allow my worship of God to redeem.

Whatever you struggle with in your “way of living” or “characteristic manner”, be open to allowing your

worship of God to be a means of redemption. It's not easy, but it will be the key to a life of gratitude and rejoicing. In my next article I will address worship and evangelism, of which its effectiveness is dependent on a lifestyle of worship.



In June, we bid farewell to longtime St. Mark's members, Tom (far left) & Kerstin Miller (far right) as they head to Colorado for a new chapter as grandparents.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

June 2025 Session Highlights **Margaret Wilke, Clerk of Session**

Session met on **June 11, 2025** for its monthly stated meeting.

The Session received and welcomed Andie Sweetman and Chris La Roche as new members of St. Mark's.

PASTOR'S REPORT - Tracy Daub

- It was another busy month for Pastor Tracy. She reported on the work of the Good Futures Team. Primavera is still interested in using Hudler Hall. They will bring in a professional to figure out how much it will cost to update the building for their purposes.

CLERK'S REPORT - Margaret Wilke

- Margaret attended the required Review of Records Review meeting held by the Presbytery at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Tucson on June 13. The minutes of the Session meetings and the church records from 2023 and 2024 were reviewed by the Clerk of Session from the Valley Presbyterian Church in Green Valley. Kerstin Miller was the St. Mark's Clerk of Session for 2023 and 2024. The reviewing clerk found no concerns or problems with the minutes and records. "Kerstin did an excellent job."

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES:

Administration Team – Charles Ambrose

- The Team approved funds to replace the kitchen dishwasher and an improved irrigation system in the Columbarium. They are checking with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program about a loan for the new HVAC units. They also painted the Mt. Lemmon cabin. Their next meeting is on August 4, 2025.

Community and Global Engagement Team – Martha Osborne & Jan Prinz

- The next Sister Jose Supper Club will be in August. The next team meeting will be on June 24, 2025.

Congregational Care Team – Lynne Davies & Jim Cullum

- Their Grief Workshop was a great success. The Opportunities Sunday recruited new volunteers to help with visitations and card ministries. They will offer another opportunities signup in the fall. Their next meeting is on June 24, 2025.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Faith Formation Team – Rachael Eggebeen

- Their meeting was postponed until June 25, 2025.

Personnel Team – Becky Cook & Beth Carroll

- The team held a very nice ‘Thank You for All Your Hard Work’ luncheon at the Blue Willow for the church staff. They are continuing to work on the process necessary to qualify for the Insurance Board Abuse Prevention Coverage.

Worship Team – Kevin Hainline & Gwyn Roske

- The St. Mark’s Funeral/Memorial Service brochure has been updated. The Columbarium brochure will be revised at the next meeting. The Service of Joy was great and the team is now considering other unique services such as Jazz and Blues Sundays. Their next meeting is on July 23rd.



The Sanctuary
Art Team
decorating the
sanctuary with
handmade
paper doves for
Pentecost

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 1| 1:00-3:00PM

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

July 2| 8:30-9:30AM

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.

July 2| 6:00-8:00PM

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

July 2| 6:45-7:45PM

Restorative Yoga. All are welcome to stretch and connect with your body every Thursday in Room F (2nd Street side).

July 8| 1:00-3:00PM

Bridge group.

July 9| 8:30-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

July 9| 6:00-8:00PM

Contemplative Community of Tucson.

July 9| 6:45-7:45PM

Restorative Yoga.

July 15| 1:00-3:00PM

Bridge group.

July 16| 8:30-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

July 16| 6:00-8:00PM

Contemplative Community of Tucson.

July 16| 6:45-7:45PM

Restorative Yoga.

July 22| 1:00-3:00PM

Bridge group.

July 23| 8:30-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

July 23| 4:30-5:30PM

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

July 23| 6:00-8:00PM

Contemplative Community of Tucson.

July 23| 6:45-7:45PM

Restorative Yoga.

July 28| 5:00-6:00PM

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

July 29| 1:00-3:00PM

Bridge group.

July 29| 2:00-3:00PM

Congregational Care Committee. Office Conference Room. All are welcome to attend.

July 30| 8:30-9:30AM

Midweek Manna.

July 30| 6:00-8:00PM

Contemplative Community of Tucson.

July 16| 6:45-7:45PM

Restorative Yoga.



Rachael, her daughter in a fabulous wig, Berry, and Mike before June Big Coffee (Social Sunday)

CONTACT INFO

Ministry Teams

Administration

Charles Ambrose – fragglerock2@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 Wilke – 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





3809 E. Third St. Tucson, AZ
85716 | (520) 325-1001
www.stmarksaz.org

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.

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.

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