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St. Mark's Weekly E-blast

1 message

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Fri, Nov 24, 2023 at 2:01 PM

Reply-To: lynn@umcstmarks.org

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**St. Mark's Weekly E-blast***We gather, connect, and serve so all may experience the love of Christ.***Nov. 24, 2023****By Rev. Lynn Bartlow, Lead Pastor**

Happy post-Thanksgiving Day! Is Thanksgiving ever over? We should give thanks each day for the blessings we experience. The little things are the easiest to overlook: the person who opened the door for you, the smell of freshly brewed coffee, the softness of your bedsheets, the taste of a freshly baked, flaky croissant. What can you appreciate today, that is easily overlooked?

This Sunday, we move the cultural season of Thanksgiving to the liturgical season of Advent. Our culture around us likes to jump straight from back-to-school to Christmas, but we are invited to linger a while in the not-yet of the season. It's not yet Christmas, even while we sing our Christmas hymns and give others good wishes.

As we move toward Christmas, we invite you to slow down and notice how our senses are part of our traditions. The sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and touches that we experience all help us to tune into the hope, peace, love, and joy of the season.

This week, join Pastor Kim and Rev. Deborah Christine on the Magee campus, with an extra 15 minutes of music before the service begins. Join the Sanctuary Praise Band and me on the Sanctuary campus. No matter where you worship, we will notice the sights of Christmas as we enter this Advent season with thanksgiving!

See you soon!

Pastor Lynn

PS - The Worship Committee is **decorating for Advent** beginning at 10 a.m. TOMORROW, Saturday, Nov. 25 at both campuses. Many hands make light work, so **all volunteers are welcome!** (Cookies will be served!)

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:30 and 10 a.m. Traditional service in Magee Campus sanctuary and child care in Rm 15
- 10 a.m. Modern service at Sanctuary Campus
- 10 a.m. Magee Campus youth and children's Sunday School (except fifth Sundays) and child care
- 10 a.m. Traditional service livestream premieres on YouTube and Website

Worship online at 10 a.m. on Sundays at umcstmarks.org/live-worship or YouTube **UMC St. Mark's AZ**. You can also watch the service at a later time.

Office Hours – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mon-Thurs, 9 a.m. to noon Friday



“November is Native American Heritage Month, and a good time to honor the legacy of our ancestors, but every day we should stop to think about our country’s beginning and that the United States would not exist if not for a great deal of sacrifice, blood, and tears by Indian tribes across the country.” – Deb Haaland, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, first Native American to serve as a Cabinet Secretary

We invite you to visit the **St. Mark's UMC Racial Equity website** and learn more about Native American history through the available readings, videos, podcasts and book recommendations.

Other activities in which you might wish to participate:

- At 2 p.m. this Sunday, Nov. 26, we will discuss the movie/book “Killers of the Flower Moon” at the Barnes & Noble Café at the former Foothills Mall, Ina and La Cholla.
- We are installing our new peace pole on the Magee Campus next month, and it includes an O’odham translation.

Please join us in honoring our Native heritage.

Notes from the Church Office

For more announcements, [click here](#).

Did you see our November Messenger newsletter? Find it [here](#). (And watch for the December newsletter next week!)

If you worship at the Magee Campus, consider arriving 15 minutes early to hear beautiful music during the weeks of Advent.

Starting this Sunday, Nov. 26, **the youth invite you to enjoy our Selfie Gallery**, "Experience Christmas"! There is a fun backdrop for each of our four weekly Advent themes. Come take a few selfies! OR bring a friend, and help each other take pictures. Open every Sunday in Advent after each service, and on Christmas Eve. Room 8/9 on Magee Campus.

Register NOW for our American Red Cross blood drive happening from 7:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, in the Magee Campus Fellowship Hall! ALL blood types are needed. Teens welcome. If you are unable to donate, consider helping to register people, give someone a break, or replenish provided snacks. Spread the word! Contact Cheri Schwartz, 602-320-2152, for more information. (If you donate, you could earn a \$10 Amazon gift card. Oh, yes--and you can save up to three people's lives!!!) **[Register here](#)**.

If you chose an **ornament from the HIV/AIDS Committee** tree on Magee Campus to purchase a gift for children whose parents/guardians are living with HIV, **please remember to bring your gift**, UN-wrapped with the ornament, back to the tree this Sunday, Nov. 26. We'll take it from there!

The Worship Committee is **decorating for Advent** beginning at 10 a.m. TOMORROW, Saturday, Nov. 25 at both campuses. Many hands make light work, so **all volunteers are welcome!** (Cookies will be served!)

Pub Theology for November is canceled. We'll see you next month! The group will meet at 6 p.m. Dec. 27 at Chili's in Arizona Pavilions. It's a chance to drink and think (and eat dinner and converse!) about life and faith. Contact Pastor Kevin for more info, kevin@umcstmarks.org.

The **Town of Marana Tree Lighting celebration** takes place 3-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, and the St. Mark's Sanctuary Campus will have a booth that needs to be set up, staffed and taken down. If you are interested in helping, please **[sign up here](#)**.

We are focusing on **holiday side dishes** in our collection for the **Northwest Food Bank at Interfaith Community Services**. This could include boxed potatoes, stuffing mix, cans of cranberry sauce or sweet potatoes, noodles, soup, canned vegetables, etc. You can bring your donations between 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays or Saturdays to the north parking lot of the Magee Campus, or if it is more convenient, you can drop them off in the church office during its business hours.

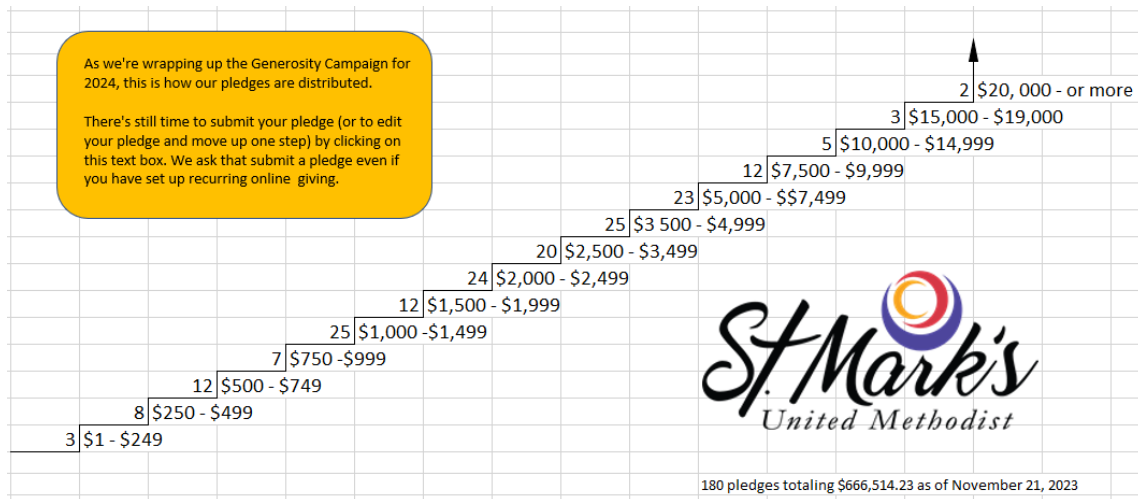
From Church & Society

The World Community. The final major category of the Social Principles, the World Community, begins by addressing the difficulties we face as one interconnected world. In the face of current challenges the Principles "commit ourselves as a Church to the achievement of a world community that is a fellowship of persons who honestly love one another." You will find the Principles' position on War and Peace, Justice and Culture, and others in **[this section](#)**.

St. Mark's Financial Summary

If you haven't yet turned in your 2024 pledge card, there's still time! The Finance Committee has begun its work on the 2024 budget, and we would love to receive your commitment! If you've misplaced your card, you can submit it electronically [HERE](#) or grab a card on Sunday.

(Text from yellow box below): As we're wrapping up the Generosity Campaign for 2024, this is how our pledges are distributed. There's still time to submit your pledge (or to edit your pledge and move up one step) by clicking [HERE](#). We ask that you submit a pledge even if you have set up recurring online giving.



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