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St. Mark UMC (McAllen, TX)

## **Regular Church Schedule**

www.stmarkumcmcallen.org

St. Mark UMC

Sunday:	Sunday School	09:30 am
	Worship Service	10:45 am
	Live Stream (via Facebook)	10:45 am
Wednesday:	Prayer Time	11:30 am
	Youth & Young Adult Bible Study	06:30 pm
	Faith Sharing Group	06:30 pm

ATTENDANCE AVERAGE	Communion Rail	FINANCIAL REPORT	
Month: October '24	Offering	Month - September 2024	
Sunday School: <b>7</b> Worship Service: <b>59</b>	Month: October '24 Total = \$130.00	Income: \$13,501.05 Expenses: \$19,588.37	
Online Service: 15	World Communion	Year to Date - <b>Jan Sept. 2024</b> Income: <b>\$156,462.33</b>	
Bible Studies: 29	Sunday	Expenses: <b>\$204,319.26</b>	

# St. Mark Events November 2024

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.



United Methodist Church

Psalm 100:4



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### Pastor Rev. Joe Tognetti 210.380.4821

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Church Office (956) 682-1481 Office Hours Monday to Friday 8am to 12pm & 1pm to 3pm

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**Pastor Musings** 

## St. Mark UMC Preschool

#### by: Evelyn Callaway - Preschool Director

Pumpkins! Pumpkins! Everywhere! The view from the window says it is time for Autumn but the weather has yet to cooperate. Maybe this means we will have a nice cool November. We sure hope so with the beginning of the holiday season.

Last month we welcomed two families to the Preschool family and in the next few weeks we will welcome two new infants. How exciting! This month we will start by teaching the children to give thanks for everything that God gave us and learning about the first Thanksgiving feast. We will host our own Friendsgiving

Feast on November 22nd. We are going to have a little fun with the menu this year. Let's see what we can come up with. Then it will be time to move on to Christmas in December!



From Pastor Joe, St. Mark UMC, November 2024

John Wesley & Voting

"In everything do to others as you would have them do for you, for this is the Law and the Prophets." --Matthew 7:12 (NRSV)

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, wrote the following in his journal on October 6, 1774: "I met those in our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them (1) To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy, (2) To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and (3) To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

According to my friend and colleague Wilson Pruitt, a UMC pastor in Austin who hosts *The History of Methodism* podcast, Wesley's parents had many bitter arguments, and separated on at least one occasion, over who they believed to be the lawful king of England! Wesley himself voted, according to his journal entries, and he publicly shared his opinions on a range of social and political topics, such as his opposition to slavery and child labor, and his opposition to the American Revolution (he was loyal to England, after all). Thus, Wesley not only understood the intensely divisive nature of voting and political engagement, but he saw great value in engaging in the political process anyway, guiding by the three rules he shares with fellow voters.

Now, Wesley lived in England, and British democracy in the 18th century looked very different than 21st century American democracy. For that reason, John Wesley's second point, in my opinion, could use some revision for our day, to something along the lines of "To speak no dishonest or insincere criticism of the person they voted against." You might have quibbles with particular details of his "voting rules," too. Yet I hope we can see how Wesley is trying to apply Jesus' Golden Rule to voting, just as we seek to live by the Golden Rule in every part of life. Whether we are eligible to vote or not, whether we express our political views publicly or not, may all of us seek to follow the Golden Rule, as Wesley did, in voting and in everyday life.

<u>What I'm reading:</u> Bible, CSB translation (Exodus & Matthew) *Misión Integral* by C. René Padilla, *Accidental Herod* by David McNitzky



## St. Mark UMC Pumpkin Patch 2024

## Upward

#### **by: Jessica Flores**

Thank you to all the volunteers for making this year a success! We could not (and wouldn't have wanted to) do this without YOU!!! This year was about so much more than a fundraiser; it was about fun, faith, and fellowship! We pray for continued blessings for the ministries that the pumpkin patch supports. Can't wait until next year! Until then, keep on praying about ways you can serve our ministries and our community.

Thank you St. Mark family!



#### by: Moises Liñan

Hello everyone! I'm very grateful to have the opportunity to keep everyone, not only in our congregation, but also in our community, updated on everything going on with our UPWARD Ministry!

To start off I want to thank God for the provision of help and strength as well as resources and children that joined our program. Second, I want to thank St. Mark UMC as well as every single volunteer who helps with these ministries because it really does take a good God and community loving team to run a successful sports ministry, or any ministry for that matter. Last but not least, the very supportive families of our UPWARD Kiddos who came to the practices, the games and volunteered their time and help when needed. The list is so long but the important thing is that God knows every single piece of the program and the way that every single person participated and contributed to its success. For that I am deeply grateful.

This Upward Soccer Season we were blessed with 46 kids registered! From these kids we created three different age groups, K4 to 1st grade, 2nd to 4th grade and 5th grade and up. The K4-1st grade consisted of 10 kids, the 2nd to 4th grade consisted of 20 kids, and the 5th grade and up had 17 kids including some high school students. All in all, I was so grateful to watch these kids grow and improve their skills not only throughout the season but over the years given that around half the kids have been doing UPWARD Soccer with us for three seasons now. More importantly the theme of the season was Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and it was a true blessing for me that every time I taught a new fruit the kids already knew it because they learned it at church or from their parents which was a beautiful thing to see.

As of October 28th, our UPWARD Volleyball season is now underway, already exceeding last years numbers with 24 girls and boys joining our Coed league. We practice every Mondays at church and Fridays at Sonic for some sand volleyball fun and fellowship! We are also looking forward to attending the UTRGV vs. Incarnate Word Volleyball game on the 14th of November as well as the High school All Star game later in December! I am very excited for what the future holds for UPWARD Sports at St. Mark UMC and if you have a chance, come see for vourself and support our ministry! Thank you and God Bless!!

