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 St. Mark UMC McAllen, TX



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www.stmarkumcmcallen.org



YouTube
 St. Mark UMC
 (McAllen, TX)

Regular Church Schedule

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

Month: November '24	
Sunday School:	6
Worship Service:	62
Online Service:	9
Bible Studies:	21

Communion Rail

Offering
 Month: **November '24**
Total = \$145.00
United Methodist Student Ministries

FINANCIAL REPORT

Month -	October 2024
Income:	\$23,100.34
Expenses:	\$15,870.78
Year to Date -	Jan. - Oct. 2024
Income:	\$179,562.67
Expenses:	\$220,190.04



St. Mark Events

December 2024

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God."

Luke 1:35 (NRSV)



Pastor
Rev. Joe Tognetti
210.380.4821

301 W Pecan Blvd
 McAllen, TX 78501

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

Website
www.stmarkumcmcallen.org

Email
stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com

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Events this Month!

December 2024

Merry Christmas
-St. Mark UMC

St. Mark UMC Office Closed Wednesday, Dec. 25th & Thursday, Dec. 26th

The Christmas Card Mailbox is Back!!!

It is that time of year again! The St. Mark UMC Christmas Card Mailbox is open and can be found in the Narthex along with the list of names.

Merry Christmas Don't forget to check YOUR folder for Christmas Cards!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS now available

You can pick up an Application this Sunday. They will be available in the narthex

Deadline is December 31st, but please submit your application ASAP to avoid any delays

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24
6:00 P.M.

Youth & Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 22nd during 10:45am Worship Service

Hidalgo Festival of Lights

All are welcome to join!

Sunday, December 22nd at 6pm St. Mark UMC Parking Lot

Each year the children and youth from St. Mark UMC ride the trolley to see all the beautiful lights while singing Christmas carols. Then they get a group photo with Santa Clause!

Christmas Poinsettias

ALL orders are due Sunday, December 15th 2024

Order forms can be found in the bulletins or on the information table in the Narthex

Hanging of the Greens

Come & worship with us! Sunday, December 1st 10:45am

St. Mark UMC Sunday School

Sunday School groups meet at 9:30am to 10:30am. We have Sunday School for children, youth, young adults, and adults!

UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEER

Join us for basketball and cheerleading in a positive, Christian basketball league. Teams will learn teamwork, values, and skills. PreK 4 - 10th Grade (Cheer: K5-5th Grade)

Registration Is Open Now

St. Mark UMC First Practice 1/6/2025
First Game 1/18/2025

Cost is \$100.00 registration. Practices every Monday Evenings 5:30pm-8:30pm and Games every Saturday Morning 9am-12pm.

Register at <https://registration.upward.org/UPW87041>

For more information contact Jessica @ (956) 534-7880

Gather up your Coins Noisy Offering

Sunday, December 29th

Holy Communion

Every Sunday

If you are interested in helping with communion (set-up, serve, or clean-up) please contact church office.

"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
-Matthew 1:21 (NRSV)

YOUTH GROUP

Tuesdays and Wednesdays @ 6:30pm
St. Mark UMC Youth Room

Young Adult Bible Study

Every Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Duplex Room (East Side of building)

Staff Meeting

Staff meeting with Pastor Joe 1st & 3rd Wednesday each month following Prayer Time in Narthex.

St. Mark UMC Preschool Christmas Program

@ 6:45pm
St. Mark UMC Sanctuary

AVAILABLE TODAY

INSIDE NARTHEX ENTRANCE

ENGLISH SPANISH LARGE PRINT

UPPER ROOM

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

POTLUCK Luncheon

You are invited to join us after service on Sunday, December 29th in the gym for a luncheon. Please see side list on what to bring if you like!

- A-E ----- Clean Up
- F-J ----- Main Dish
- K-O ----- Side Dish
- P-R ----- Salad
- S-Z ----- Dessert

Faith Sharing Group

Join us in the Narthex at 6:30pm Wednesday night for a light meal followed by faith sharing time at 7pm.

Prayer Time

ALL are Welcome!

Pastor Joe will be leading a brief prayer service in the Narthex. Prayer Time is every Wednesday at 11:30am.

1st Day of Winter!

Saturday, December 21st

One Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 10th at 7pm

SENIOR SOCIAL

2nd & 4th Thursday every month we will get together at 4:30pm at a place decided ahead of time.

If you are interested, there is a signup sheet in Narthex or call the church office.

Respite Center Box Assembly Day!

Sunday, December 15th

Join us after worship service to help assemble boxes for the Respite Center.

St. Mark UMC Preschool CHAPEL

Every Wednesday at 9:30am in the Sanctuary

Items needed

- Rice
- Beans
- Canned Meat
- Canned Fruit
- Tomato Sauce
- Canned Veggies
- Candy Treats

St. Mark FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Saturday Dec. 21st 11:00 am

Affair of the Heart

would love for your help with SHOPPING!



We are excited to start planning the
33rd Annual Affair of the Heart!



But we could use your help **NOW** with Auction Items!

While you are out this holiday season shopping for gifts please
look for items that can be used for our Silent Auction.

Affair of the Heart Silent Auction is the biggest part of our event
that brings in money to help improve our church building (like the
camera system & new windows) along with supporting ministries
in our church and community.

Auction items can be dropped off at the church office Monday-
Friday during office hours or Sunday Morning before worship

service!



Thank you and happy shopping!

Pastor Musings

From Pastor Joe, St. Mark UMC, December 2024
The Origins of Christmas

The following is an article from the United Methodist Church website, dated November 12, 2018.¹ Other historical evidence suggests that the newly Christian Roman Empire replaced a pagan holiday with Christmas in the 4th century, which could also be true, but it wouldn't negate the northern African Christian origins of Christmas.

The assertion that Christmas is merely a "Christianized" pagan holiday simply isn't true. In his book, The Origins of the Liturgical Year, Thomas Talley shows that Dec. 25 was celebrated in the early church by the third century and suggests a North African rather than Roman origin for the feast and its dating. There were both theological and historical principles at work in arriving at that date. The process began by seeking to establish the likely historical date for the death of Jesus at Passover. This was thought to have been March 25. The annunciation was set to correspond with that date, so that, theologically, the conception of Jesus and the death of Jesus are observed as part of the same whole. The date to observe the birth of Jesus was then set by adding nine months to March 25, thus arriving at Dec. 25. This process for historical and theological dating was already in place in some of the churches in North Africa as early as the late second century and appears to have spread across the churches from there. A typical claim one finds about Christmas as a "Christianized pagan holiday" relates to the Roman observance of Sol Invictus. The problem with this assertion, based on Talley's findings, becomes historical. Sol Invictus dates to 274, about a century after we have evidence of some Christian churches already celebrating the feast of the nativity of Jesus on Dec. 25. So Christmas is not from its beginnings a "Christianization" of a pre-existing pagan festival. It is instead an extension of the central Christian story of the crucifixion of Jesus, "Christ our Passover" sacrificed for us. In making this connection to Passover explicit, we are reminded that in the conception, birth and crucifixion of Jesus the whole world finds God's decisive deliverance from bondage, oppression and the power of sin in this life, and, in the age to come, resurrection into new creation and life everlasting.

¹ <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-does-christmas-have-roots-in-pagan-beliefs#:~:text=This%20was%20thought%20to%20have,25.>

What I'm reading: Bible, CSB translation (Leviticus & Matthew)
Misión Integral by C. René Padilla, *Making of Biblical Womanhood* by Beth Allison Barr



Food Pantry Thanksgiving Meal

by: Hollie Landis

For many years, St. Mark United Methodist Church has provided a Hot Thanksgiving Meal to the 40+ families who depend and use our monthly food pantry every 3rd Saturday of each month. The families are invited to stay and enjoy fellowship with church members and volunteers in the gym. The meal is done on the 3rd Saturday of November. After the meal the families will then get their monthly bag of food and a frozen turkey (the turkey is for those who used the Food Pantry for a set amount of months or more during the year). The Thanksgiving Meal is cooked by amazing volunteers at St. Mark UMC. This year we had enough food to feed about 100 people! Thank you to ALL the volunteers who helped prepare food, serve food, handout the bags & turkeys, and make this a successful ministry. Thank you to: Aleida & Carlos E., Jessica F., Leigh Ann T., Felix B., Laura B., Claire R., Rick O., Moises L., Jaden F., Ivy L., Melody L., & Hollie L. for all their help with 2024 Food Pantry Thanksgiving Meal.



History of St. Mark Continued...

by: Helen Balsey (Drucilla Vinger - Finance Administrator)



George Mather, who had earlier served as choir director while teaching music in the Mission schools, now agreed to become our full-time minister of music. He trains and directs the Chancel Choir, the Youth Choir which sings at the 8:30am services and the Cherub Choir, darling children who sing their hearts out for George. Our Chancel Choir was honored by being invited to sing at the Sunday Evening Service at Annual Conference in San Antonio in June, 1980. George also directs the music at Youth Club, makes calls at the hospital and on shut-ins, checks attendance cards, directs the Minute Men and assists wherever needed.

St. Mark has had several secretaries without whom we could scarcely function. There have been part time secretaries: Ruth Kline, Elaine Moyer and Merline Riggs, then full-time secretaries: Nancy Ebensberger, Stacy DeBerry and Bernice Myers (don't have records from Bernice to Sherrill Snodgrass in late 80's to 1992 when Drucilla Vinger was added to the staff followed by Mary Barrera, Lynn Noe, Norma Ocañas, Chris Martinez and Hollie Landis).