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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 Bible Study	06:30 pm
	Faith Sharing Group	06:30 pm

## ATTENDANCE AVERAGE

Month:	<b>August</b>
Sunday School:	<b>9</b>
Worship Service:	<b>53</b>
Online Service:	<b>4</b>

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Month -	<b>July 2023</b>
Income:	<b>\$16,292.01</b>
Expenses:	<b>\$24,719.56</b>
Year to Date - <b>January - July 2023</b>	
Income:	<b>\$116,966.75</b>
Expenses:	<b>\$151,171.50</b>

# St. Mark Events

## September 2023



*The grass withers, the  
flower fades; but the word of  
our God will stand forever.*

**-Isaiah 40:8 (NRSV)**



Senior 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](http://www.stmarkumcmcallen.org)

Email  
[stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com](mailto:stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com)

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# Events this Month!



# September 2023



**Saturday  
Sept. 16th  
11 a.m.**

**St. Mark  
FOOD  
PANTRY  
MINISTRY**



**ITEMS NEEDED:**  
CRACKERS  
JELLY  
CANNED VEGGIES  
CANNED FRUIT  
TOMATO SAUCE  
PEANUT BUTTER

**UPPER ROOM  
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER**



**AVAILABLE  
TODAY**  
INSIDE  
NARTHEX  
ENTRANCE  
ENGLISH  
SPANISH  
LARGE PRINT

St. Mark UMC  
Preschool  
CHAPEL  
Every Wednesday at 9:30am in the  
Sanctuary

**Happy  
Labor Day!**



St. Mark UMC Office and Preschool will  
be closed Monday, September 4th, 2023  
in observance of Labor Day.

**Preschool Team Meeting**  
Tuesday, September 26th at 6pm



It's time for our  
*new directory!*

We NEED  
& your family



St. Mark United Methodist Church & Preschool  
is getting a New Directory!

Professional Photographers will be at St. Mark UMC on October 19th,  
20th, & 21st. You can schedule your appointment online our with Hollie  
Landis. Online go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) and click photography  
appointment scheduling. Enter **tx397** for code and **photos** for password

Any question contact  
the church office.

Our Church Family Album will  
not be complete without you!

## New Member Class



- Have you ever professed your faith in Christ?
- Have you or your child been baptized?
- If so, have you formally joined St. Mark UMC as a member?

If your answer is "NO" to any or all of these questions, please contact Pastor Joe (210-380-4821 or [jjtogs@gmail.com](mailto:jjtogs@gmail.com)). He will be leading a New Member Class this Fall.

## SENIOR SOCIAL

2nd & 4th Thursday every month  
we will get together at 4:45pm at  
a place decided ahead of time.

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

## Sunday School



St. Mark UMC Sunday  
School classes will begin  
at 9:30am and end at  
10:30am for ALL age  
groups.

There will also be choir practice  
during this time frame.  
Children @ 9:30am to 10am  
Adults @ 10am to 10:30am

Please contact Pastor Joe or call church office at 956-682-1481

### Choir Practice

If you enjoy singing please  
join us Sunday Mornings for  
choir practice.  
Children's Choir on hold for the Summer  
and Adult Choir at 10am in the Sanctuary.  
For more information contact church office or speak with Glenda

**St. Mark UMC Gym**  
**CLOSED**  
for cleaning and waxing

Monday, September 25th thru Saturday, September 30th  
Sorry for any inconvenience!

## Encounter the Risen Christ FACE to FACE

This is an experience in the Emmaus Tradition for anyone  
60 years of age and older. It will be held November 6th-  
9th 2023. Cost is \$50.00 per person and scholarships are  
available. Applications can be found in Narthex.

## Pumpkins are Coming!

Saturday, September  
30th at 9:00 am.  
Help us unload and  
get the patch set up!  
Contact the Church Office or  
Jessica Flores for more info



### YOUTH GROUP

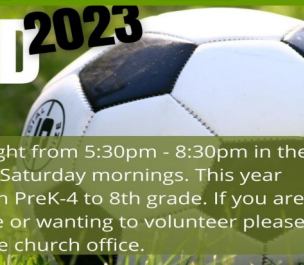
Wednesdays @ 6:30pm  
St. Mark UMC Youth Room

### Faith Sharing Group

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

## UPWARD 2023

Practices every Monday night from 5:30pm - 8:30pm in the  
Gym. Game days will be Saturday mornings. This year  
Upward Soccer is for kids in PreK-4 to 8th grade. If you are  
interested in learning more or wanting to volunteer please  
contact the church office.



# POTLUCK

## Luncheon

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

You are invited to join us  
after service on Sunday,  
**September 24th** in the  
gym for a luncheon. Please  
see side list on what to  
bring if you like!



### One Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 12th  
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.

## Staff Meeting

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



## Happy Fall Y'all!

Saturday,  
September 23rd

### Women of Courage Lunch

will meet after Worship service the  
2nd Sunday of each Month

for more information please call the church office at 956-682-1481



## Holy Communion Every Sunday

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

ChXldFund.

Bring Hope and the  
Promise of a New Beginning  
to Catherine.



Catherine Jabang

## Meet Catherine

This is Catherine Jabang  
Catherine lives in the western part of the country  
with her family. Her family are small scale  
traditional farmers who grow crops for both  
commercial and home consumption but the  
greater quantity is used for food at home. This  
child should learn at school but the parents  
annual income is meager and irregular that, it  
cannot cater for health, education and other  
basic needs of the family. This makes things  
tough for the family leaving the children  
vulnerable to poor health and education  
conditions. The family's combined annual  
income is approximately US\$345.00 which alone  
is not enough to make ends meet for the  
family. Therefore, this child needs assistance to learn  
for a better tomorrow. She is in good health.

Gender: Female  
Birth Date: February 14, 2018  
Project: Y22  
Country: The Gambia

St. Mark UMC Youth Group is sponsoring  
Catherine Jabang. While the Youth were  
at the Newsboys concert they wanted to  
help a child and picked Catherine!



# St. Mark UMC Trustees

**By: Hollie Landis & Doris Goby (Trustee Chair)**

What is a United Methodist Church Trustee? According to The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2016) it says “the board of trustees shall have the supervision, oversight, and care of all real property owned by the local church and of all property and equipment acquired directly by the local church or by any society, board, class, commission, or similar organization connected therewith.”

St. Mark UMC will be celebrating its 72nd anniversary on October 14th! It is a blessing to be here that long but it does mean that repairs and upgrades often need to be addressed. This is where the board of trustees comes in. St. Mark UMC has a board of trustees who are Doris Goby (Trustee Chair), Larry Goby, Juan Quintanilla, Jennifer Rodriguez, Sam Ocañas, & Felix Bustinza. They are notified about an issue that needs to be fixed/upgraded and they find the best way to get it done.

Have you seen the new windows that were installed in the rooms on the north side of the building? How about the nice new parking lot? Thank you to our trustees for giving our church a fresh and updated look. The new windows were a big project that could not have happened without the help from St. Mark UMC Preschool, Affair of the Heart, and our congregation. These new windows look great and will help with cost during the seasons.

The trustees are also having the gym floor refinished the end of September with the help of the St. Mark UMC Children & Youth. Our gym will be closed from September 25th to September 30th. St. Mark UMC gym is used by our Upward soccer and Upward basketball in the fall and late winter months. A basketball & volleyball group rent the gym for practices twice a week. And we have the occasional group to rent it for private events.

Thank you to our trustees for keeping up with our property and building. If you see anything that needs to be addressed, please contact the church office or let one of the trustees know. You are also welcome to volunteer and help by reaching out and let them know what skills you have that can help.



## Pastor Musings

**Thoughts and Advice from Pastor Joe, St. Mark UMC, September 2023**

### Believing What God Can Do

Jesus answered them, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ it will be done. Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.”

—Matthew 21:21-22

Confession: I do not like all Bible passages equally. That does not take away from my faith in the Bible as the written word of God. It is simply an acknowledgement that I like some biblical stories more than others. The passage above, where Jesus declares that those who “have faith and do not doubt” can move mountains, is one that I don’t like as much as others. I have seen these words get abused to enable ministries with large media budgets to shame and bully their followers into doing unhealthy things. Further, I have never actually seen anyone literally move a mountain on command, so that makes me like this passage even less.

Yet if I sit with this passage, I can see what Jesus is truly saying. For starters, Jesus says that “Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.” “With faith”—that faith in the one who died and rose from the dead, that faith that equips us to “take up [our] cross and follow [Jesus]” (Matthew 16:24). Faith is not just our willingness to conjure up Jesus’ name when we want to do something miraculous, but truly having faith to go wherever Jesus leads us. When we do that, we recognize that God is, indeed, capable of doing so much more through us than we can possibly do on our own. Whatever challenges, obstacles, or dilemmas you face, truly put your faith in the will and The Way of Jesus Christ, who is with us always by the power of the Holy Spirit, and through whom we can indeed do all things that we ask for in faith.

In Christ,

Pastor Joe





## Kneeling Cushions

by: Drucilla Vinger, Finance Administrator

As I promised in my last article, here is the list of the members who did the needlepoint:

PILLOW	THE CHRISTIAN SYMBOL	THEIR SYMBOLS	NEEDLEPOINT ARTIST/S
Winged Ox Luke	The Lamb of God Jesus	Eagle John	Doris Stephenson
Latin Cross Paul	Wheat Bread of Life	Budded Cross 2 loaves of bread Phillip	Dorothy Toothaker
3 Fishes Jesus	Crown of Life Christ the King	Book & Cross Simon	Lee Bourg Dorothy Toothaker Evelyn Crawford
Cross & Keyes Peter	The Lion St. Mark	Anchor & Cross Andrew	Elaine Parry Jean Jones Doris Stephenson
Bible The work of our Lord	Fluer de Lis Trinity	The Ship Jude	Jean Jones
Saw James the Lesser	Descending Dove The Holy Spirit	Sword & Shell James the Lesser	Mary Whitsett
HIS Jesus rituals	Alpha & Omega The beginning and the end		Gerrie Fritts
Square & Plane Thomas	Hand of God The Lord's almighty power & will	Bible Mattheas	Evelyn Crawford
Three Purses Matthew	Ark Noah	Money Bag Judas	Janie Hinkle

My next article will be the history of the stained glass Christ and Disciple windows in the Narthex.

# Kneeling Cushions

