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St. Mark UMC
(McAllen, TX)



ST. MARK UMC PUMPKIN PATCH

MONDAY TO THURSDAY 2PM - 7PM

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY 1PM - 8PM



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:	September
Sunday School:	9
Worship Service:	51
Online Service:	6

FINANCIAL REPORT

Month -	August 2023
Income:	\$12,555.75
Expenses:	\$20,060.11
<hr/>	
Year to Date -	Jan. - Aug. 2023
Income:	\$123,650.28
Expenses:	\$164,402.00

St. Mark Events

October 2023



*So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your
God. I will strengthen you and
help you; I will uphold you with
my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)



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

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St. Mark UMC (McAllen, TX)

Website

www.stmarkumcmcallen.org

Email

stmark.umc.mcallen@gmail.com

Events this Month!

October 2023

**Saturday
October 21st
11 a.m.**

St. Mark FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

ITEMS NEEDED:
RICE
BEANS
CRACKERS
CANNED VEGGIES
CANNED FRUIT
TOMATO SAUCE
Canned Soup



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 and click photography appointment scheduling. Enter **tx397** for code and **photos** for password.

St. Mark United Methodist Church



POTLUCK Luncheon

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

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



**St. Mark UMC
Pumpkin Patch Hours**

Monday to Thursday
2pm - 7pm
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday
1pm - 8pm



Pumpkins are Coming! **Date & Time Change**

Sunday, October 1st at 12:00 pm.
Help us unload and get the patch set up!
Contact the Church Office or Jessica Flores for more info



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



Ministry and Artificial Intelligence

Pastor Joe needs your help! He will be leading a workshop on ministry and artificial intelligence. If you could please take the short questionnaire to help him out.

<https://assessments.gloo.us/a/RGVwbG95bWVudENvbmZpZ3wyNTczMjQ3MTEwODA4ODY0NDg3>




**St. Mark UMC
72nd Anniversary**

October 14, 1951 - October 14, 2023



YOUTH GROUP

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




Faith Sharing Group

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



Thank you!!! CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY!

Sunday, October 8th



St. Mark UMC UPWARD VOLLEYBALL

For 6th to 12th Grade

Registration Open 09/08/2023
First Evaluation 10/23/2023
First Practice 10/30/2023
First Game 11/04/2023
Season Ends 12/16/2023

Cost is \$85.00 for early registration. Practices every Monday 5:30pm-8:30pm and Games every Saturday 9am-12pm. Total of 7 games in the season.

onlineRegistration-registration.upward.org/UPW85066



**St. Mark UMC Preschool
Movie at the Patch Night!**

Come and join us Saturday, October 14th at 6:00pm in the Pumpkin Patch for fun, food and a movie!



Staff Meeting

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

Laity Sunday
October 15th 2023



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.

One Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 10th at 7pm



Choir Practice

If you enjoy singing please join us Sunday Mornings for choir practice.
Children's Choir is back at 9:30am and Adult Choir at 10am in the Sanctuary.
For more information contact church office or speak with Choirmaster.

World Communion Sunday
October 1st



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.

Children's Sabbath
Sunday, October 15th
3rd Graders will receive their Bibles during children's time in the service!



WORSHIP TEAM MEETING

Sunday, October 8th after the worship service.

Front area of the sanctuary. This is to prepare for Holy Week.



UPWARD 2023

Upward Soccer End of Season Party! Saturday, October 21st. More details to come!

Find us on YouTube
St. Mark UMC (McAllen, TX)
We have "Church Happenings" posted so you know what we are doing at St. Mark UMC. We also will have sermons being posted 2-3 days after Sunday worship.



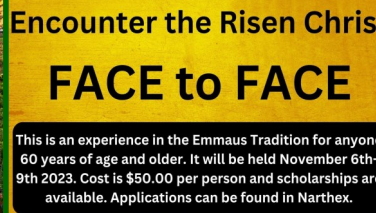
St. Mark UMC Preschool CHAPEL

Every Wednesday at 9:30am in the Sanctuary




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.



October is Clergy Appreciation Month



Gather up your Coins Noisy Offering
Sunday, October 29th



Holy Communion
Every Sunday

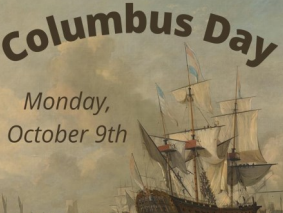


Women of Courage Lunch

will meet after Worship service the 2nd Sunday of each Month
for more information please call the church office at 956-682-1481.



Columbus Day
Monday, October 9th



St. Mark UMC Preschool

by: Evelyn Callaway, Preschool Director

Fall is finally here and it is time to start planning for all of our holiday activities. We love this time of the year not only because of the cooler weather but also because we are lucky enough to have such a great view of the pumpkin patch all month. The Preschool children love to look out the windows and see so many other children from different schools come through and hunt for their own mini pumpkins. This month we will also host a movie night at the patch on October 14th from 6-8pm. We will sell snacks and enjoy a G rated movie. We also have a costume parade and picnic on October 27th with the preschool children and families. November will be here before we know it and we will be talking to the children about being thankful and will go over the first Thanksgiving before we sit down for our own Thanksgiving lunch on Thursday, November 17th. Then finally we move in to December when we celebrate Jesus' birth all month and end with a special Christmas program on December 15th, a visit from Santa, and our Christmas parties. It will be busy the next few months but we love it!



Pastor Musings

Thoughts and Advice from Pastor Joe, St. Mark UMC, October 2023 God Still Calls Today, & God Still Calls Through You

When Pastor Sharon served here as interim pastor during the first half of 2022, she introduced a time of personal testimony during worship called "God Still Calls Today." When I started as pastor in June 2022, I kept this practice, but only once a month. Upon reflection, I think reducing God Still Calls to once per month was a mistake. Starting this month, we will have God Still Calls testimonies every other week in worship, because God does, indeed, still calls us today. Yet I know that we might struggle to get folks to sign up to offer such testimonies. Many of y'all are hesitant to share something as personal as your experiences of God. Yet offering such testimonies helps our community grow in our love for God and one another. Thus, here are 3 things that can help anyone share how God Still Calls in their life.

(1) **Start with stories and examples from your life.** 1 Peter 3:15, encourages us to "give the reason for the hope that you have." Testimonies are about why you sincerely hope in Christ.

(2) **Testify to what God has done in your life.** In Acts 4:20, Peter and John declare, "For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Focus on how your faith journey has led you to experience God's love, forgiveness, and transformation through Christ.

(3) **Prayer is essential when testifying,** as it invites the Holy Spirit to guide you. Seek God's guidance before speaking and ask for God's wisdom to communicate effectively.

Testifying about one's experiences of God the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit can feel intimidating. By speaking **from your life about God from a place of deep prayer**, your presence and witness help us as members of our St. Mark UMC family grow in our love for God, one another, and the larger world.

In Christ,

Pastor Joe

Note: Pastor Joe often utilizes the artificial intelligence program ChatGPT to develop a first draft of these articles.



Children and Youth at St. Mark UMC

by: Jessica Flores, Children & Youth Director

Fall has arrived! The weather may not feel much like Fall, but Fall is here and with it comes the start of our beloved annual Pumpkin Patch! Set up for pumpkin arrival was Wednesday, Sept 27. Our youth did a great job with the setup and the Patch is set to be beautiful as always. Pumpkins arrive Sunday, Oct 1 just after worship service. We will celebrate with pizza donated by Katie Klein.

There are many opportunities for service involved with our Pumpkin Patch. As always, please keep the Patch and volunteers in your prayers. There will be a signup binder with pumpkin patch shifts passed around. Please feel free to grab a friend and sign up for a shift. We will also be selling Fall themed baked goods if you are interested in serving in that way.

Stop by and grab your favorite pumpkin goodies in the month of October! Please pray that our church will be a blessing to our community this month through our Pumpkin Patch.



Worship Volunteering

By: Hollie Landis, Administrative Assistant

Do you enjoy talking or singing? Do you enjoy baking? How about teaching kids or adults about God? How about meeting new people in our community? There are SO MANY ways a person can volunteer at St. Mark UMC! All you have to do is figure out your gifts and how they can be used to help in our church.

Did you know you can volunteer for worship service? We all love coming together Sunday mornings to hear the words of God and be with our church family. Being a part of the worship service can be special. Ways you can be a part of the worship service is singing in the choir or being liturgist. You get to help lead our congregation with songs and words from the Bible. Another way is helping by being a greeter or usher. These are more of a one-on-one with people and helping visitors feel welcome. We also offer communion every Sunday, so those who help with that get to remind the congregation how much Jesus loved us and how we are forgiven. We also even have volunteering for the younger kids in our church. These young ones get to bring in the light of God at the start of each worship service and take it out to the world at the end. Being an acolyte and a part of the worship service is so special to them. If you feel called and would like to help in any way with our worship service reach out to the church office. We will be happy to have your gifts added.

