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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 Group	06:30 pm
	Faith Sharing Group	06:30 pm

## ATTENDANCE AVERAGE

Month:	<b>October</b>
Sunday School:	<b>15</b>
Worship Service:	<b>67</b>
Online Service:	<b>2</b>

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Month -	<b>September 2023</b>
Income:	<b>\$33,211.92</b>
Expenses:	<b>\$20,609.76</b>
<hr/>	
Year to Date -	<b>Jan. - Sept. 2023</b>
Income:	<b>\$165,438.85</b>
Expenses:	<b>\$191,963.10</b>

# St. Mark Events

## November 2023



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

**Psalm 100:4**



**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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**St. Mark UMC (McAllen, TX)**



# Events this Month!

# November 2023



**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.

Online Registration- [registration.upward.org/UPW85066](https://registration.upward.org/UPW85066)

For more information contact Moises @ (210) 426-4941

**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.

**Daylight Savings Time Ends**

Be sure to turn your clocks BACK an hour before bed Saturday night November 4th!

**Saturday November 18 11 a.m.**

**St. Mark FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY**

**ITEMS NEEDED:**  
TOMATO SAUCE  
STUFFING  
CANNED:  
SWEET POTATOES  
GREEN BEANS  
CORN  
CRANBERRY SAUCE

**November 11th**

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.  
- John 15:13 (NRSV)

**Veterans**

**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

**St. Mark UMC Preschool CHAPEL**

Every Wednesday at 9:30am in the Sanctuary

**Holy Communion**  
Every Sunday

**One Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, November 14th at 7pm

**Faith Sharing Group**

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

**YOUTH GROUP**

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

**POTLUCK Luncheon**

You are invited to join us after service on Sunday, **November 26th** in the gym for a luncheon. Please see side list on what to bring if you like!

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

**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.

**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

**Charge Conference**  
Thursday, November 2nd 7:00pm at Edinburg First UMC  
3707 W. University Drive/TX-Hwy 107, Edinburg, TX 78541

**UPPER ROOM NOVEMBER - DECEMBER**

AVAILABLE TODAY

INSIDE NARTHEX ENTRANCE

ENGLISH SPANISH LARGE PRINT

**Staff Meeting**

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

**UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEER**

Join us for basketball and cheerleading in a positive, Christian basketball league. Children will learn teamwork, values, and skills.

PreK 4 - 9th Grade  
Registration Opens 10/2/2023  
Registration Ends 1/8/2024  
First Practice 1/8/2023  
First Game 1/13/2023

Cost is \$90.00 for early registration. Practices every Monday Evenings 5:30pm-8:30pm and Games every Saturday Morning 9am-12pm.

Register at <https://registration.upward.org/UPW85175>

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



# St. Mark UMC Upward Sports

by: Aleythia Gutierrez & Moises Linan

Howdy and good cheer! Wanna know more about Upward Sports? After hosting two successful Upward Soccer leagues, volunteering at our top hit, Upward Basketball, now moving onto our first Upward Volleyball league, and loving it, we are your go to peeps for that! Upward is a really cool Sports Ministry with all the resources to organize a sports league at church centered in Sports and God!

So, at St. Mark United Methodist Church, we're not only bettering our handles, improving our trekkers, cheering louder, and now serving, but we're also running alongside God and going Upward in our spiritual journey's as we devote time to emphasizing the Word of God.

While our church has done Upward Basketball and Cheer for over 15 years, we have been blessed to have grown in the opportunities and ministries we can offer the community in the last year. Last year was the first year of Upward Soccer which, thanks to the help of our great volunteers at St. Mark UMC, was a big success. This year we were able to do our second year and we got to see our Upward Soccer ministry grow from 28 kids to 48 kids, all ranging from the ages of 4 to 14! We are also now offering Upward Volleyball for middle school and high school boys and girls.

If your kids, or if you know kids who enjoy playing sports, and you want them to play in an environment that will reinforce fundamental skills, but more importantly help your kids learn some great stories about the word of God and be intentional in their Spiritual, Mental and Physical growth, then don't be shy and join the Upward team :) !



## Pastor Musings

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

### Methodist Education: A brief celebration of the life of Jovita Idár

In honor of All Saints Day, I thought I would share part of an article about a locally-famous Methodist saint: Jovita Idar, a South Texas journalist and activist from Laredo who was a lifelong Methodist. Below are excerpts from an October 4, 2022 article in United Methodist News, written by Sam Hodges, title "Spotlight shines on Jovita Idár, Methodist reformer."<sup>1</sup>

"Though she's still not a household name, [Jovita] Idár's heroic advocacy for Mexican Americans, as well as for women and children, has made her the subject of scholarly articles, a documentary and a historical marker...Idár was a lifelong, faithful Methodist. Idár was born into a large, educated, relatively well-off Mexican American family on Sept. 7, 1885, in Laredo, Texas. Her maternal grandfather was the Rev. Clemente Abraham Vivero, a Methodist minister. In her youth, Jovita Idár attended Laredo Seminary, a Methodist school that would become known as Holding Institute, after the school's Methodist missionary leader Nannie Emory Holding. After graduating in 1903, Idár taught impoverished Mexican American children in tiny Los Ojuelos, Texas. But she didn't teach for long, instead joining her father's newspaper. "Appalled by the poor conditions and inadequate equipment as well as the lack of hope in this community, she resigned and turned to political journalism, working alongside her brothers and father and using the media to foment social change," Claudia González wrote in a chapter on Idár for the book "Texas Women: Their Histories, Their Lives."

Surely the most cinematic moment of Idár's career came in 1914, when El Progreso, the Laredo newspaper she was then working for, published an editorial critical of President Woodrow Wilson for ordering a U.S. military occupation in Veracruz, Mexico. A team of Texas Rangers soon arrived at the newspaper, intending to shut it down in retaliation. They had a surprise. "One of (El Progreso's) writers, a slender, twenty-nine-year-old woman named Jovita Idár, stood in the doorway to block them. As a crowd formed, the Rangers backed away," wrote Doug J. Swanson in his 2020 book "Cult of Glory: The Bold and Brutal History of the Texas Rangers."

I hope you get a chance to read the rest of the UM News article about Jovita Idár, and that, as you remember the saints who have blessed your life directly, you also take time to celebrate the "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1) who have come before us. So many of these men & women devoted themselves to the promise of our United Methodist baptismal vows, to "accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves."

In Christ,

Pastor Joe

<sup>1</sup> You can find the rest of the article here:  
<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/spotlight-shines-on-jovita-idar-methodist-reformer>.



# The Christ and Disciple Windows

by: **Drucilla Vinger, Finance Administrator**

Through the medium of stained glass, Laverne and Alvin Todd have created these beautiful windows in honor of their grandchildren, Jennifer and James Ordner and Jared Todd Tucker and donated them to St. Mark United Methodist Church.

During late spring and summer of 1979, with the construction of the new addition to the Sanctuary underway, the Todds approached Rev. David Edgar with the proposition that they would create and install stained glass windows in the side windows of the new addition as a donation. Subsequent bids from various studios were received for stained glass for the large window pursuant to which the Todds were requested to submit a bid on the large window. They responded with an offer to include the large window along with the side windows in their donation.

To assist in the project, a volunteer committee from the congregation, composed of Ed Cohrs, Gerrie Fritts, Ann Robertson, Rosalyn Smith, Ilene Boje and chaired by Dr. Bill Caldwell, was selected. The purpose of this committee was to select the subject matter to be depicted in the large window. After several weeks of much research and visits to numerous churches, the decision was made to depict the figure of Christ. Ilene Boje, with her expertise as an artist and painter, was selected to scale out the figure of Christ for the window, which involved many hours of dedicated time. The Todds completed the drawing, including dividing it into fifteen separate panels, placement of lead line to assure continuous flow from panel to panel and determining dimensions of each panel. The drawing was traced off and a pattern for each piece of glass in the window was made.

After a selection of glass colors was made, the Todds travelled to California where they selected the glass to be incorporated in the project. That selection included opalescent, antique and cathedral glass from England, France and West Germany, as well as U.S. made glass.



The first piece of glass for the windows was cut on August 8, 1979 and after innumerable man hours of work and the aid of prayers, the large window was installed on November 5th. Each panel was constructed separately with each piece of glass hand cut, arranged and secured in place with lead coming. The stability was increased by framing each panel with zinc and securing reinforcing bars on the reverse side. This was followed by applying a glazing compound to secure the glass within the lead came, and finished off with a polishing compound.

To effectively reflect the features of the figure of Christ, and the border pieces, it was necessary to employ a special glass paint. After many laborious hours, the painting was completed through the efforts and expertise of Ilene Boje, necessitating kiln firing on the head piece a total of six times.

The decision to depict the twelve disciples in the side windows was at the suggestion of Rev. David Edgar. Since we had the central figure of Christ, to complete the picture, the twelve disciples would be represented by symbol. The Todds constructed these windows in basically the same manner as the large window, incorporating the copper foil method with the lead came. The painting involved in the side windows was done by the Todds and the lettering by Ilene Boje, the final installation being on January 23, 1980. The windows were dedicated on Sunday, April 13, 1980.

The Todds have indicated that this gesture was their way of saying thanks for the many blessings received from the Lord and their association with the church.

*The twelve disciples from left to right: Peter, Matthew, Andrew, Thomas, James, James the Less, John, Thaddeus, Phillip, Simon, Bartholomew, and Judas.*

